Top airport official killed in Parañaque ambush

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Cult leader rocks Cebu jailhouse

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Talk about a stairway to heaven. Cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.'s cell

CULT/A12

BUENAVENTURA: We need stronger penalties. PDI PHOTO

Bangko Sentral restricts purchase of dollars

By Clarissa S. Batino, *Business*

AS THE PESO continued to weaken yesterday, closing at P55.195, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas took action. BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura issued a circular prohibiting residents from purchasing dollars in the spot market if they would use it to buy dollar-denominated bonds.

Yesterday's close was 6.5 centavos lower from P55.13 on Monday. The peso opened weak at P55.14 and fell to P55.20.

Traders think that if the peso continues to depreciate, the central bank would tighten its monetary policy or use stronger moral suasion to discourage banks and investors from buying dollars.

"If we talk about capital flight, those who wanted out left already," Buenaventura said. "But some are still converting their pesos to buy ROPs (dollar-denominated Philippine sovereign bonds) and that is why we issued a circular to correct this."

From now on, local investors cannot finance their investments in ROPs out of dollars bought in the spot market, the BSP chief said.

ROPs are debt papers issued by the government to finance its budget deficit and pay maturing foreign debt. Ironically, the BSP action could make it harder for the government to raise dollar funds considering that local investors' participation in ROP offerings have increased over the past few years.

The more pressing concern now, Buenaventura said, was the lack of dollar inflow, as investors have opted to stay on the sidelines and wait for a clearer direction before they change their dollars into pesos to buy local stocks or government securities.

"Clearly, it's the absence of inflow that is adding more pressure on the peso. What we need is for things to settle down. We don't need to use monetary tools and we will continue to monitor currency transactions to ensure there is no speculation. Maybe, we also need stronger penalties for violators," said Buenaventura.

For some analysts, capital flight already happens when people convert their peso assets to dollars, whether to buy bonds or to deposit the money in local or foreign accounts.

"Buying ROPs using pesos converted into dollars could qualify as capital flight. But I don't think there has been

BANGKO/A21

Iggy faces contempt rap

He must talk under SC ruling –Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac and Alcuin Papa

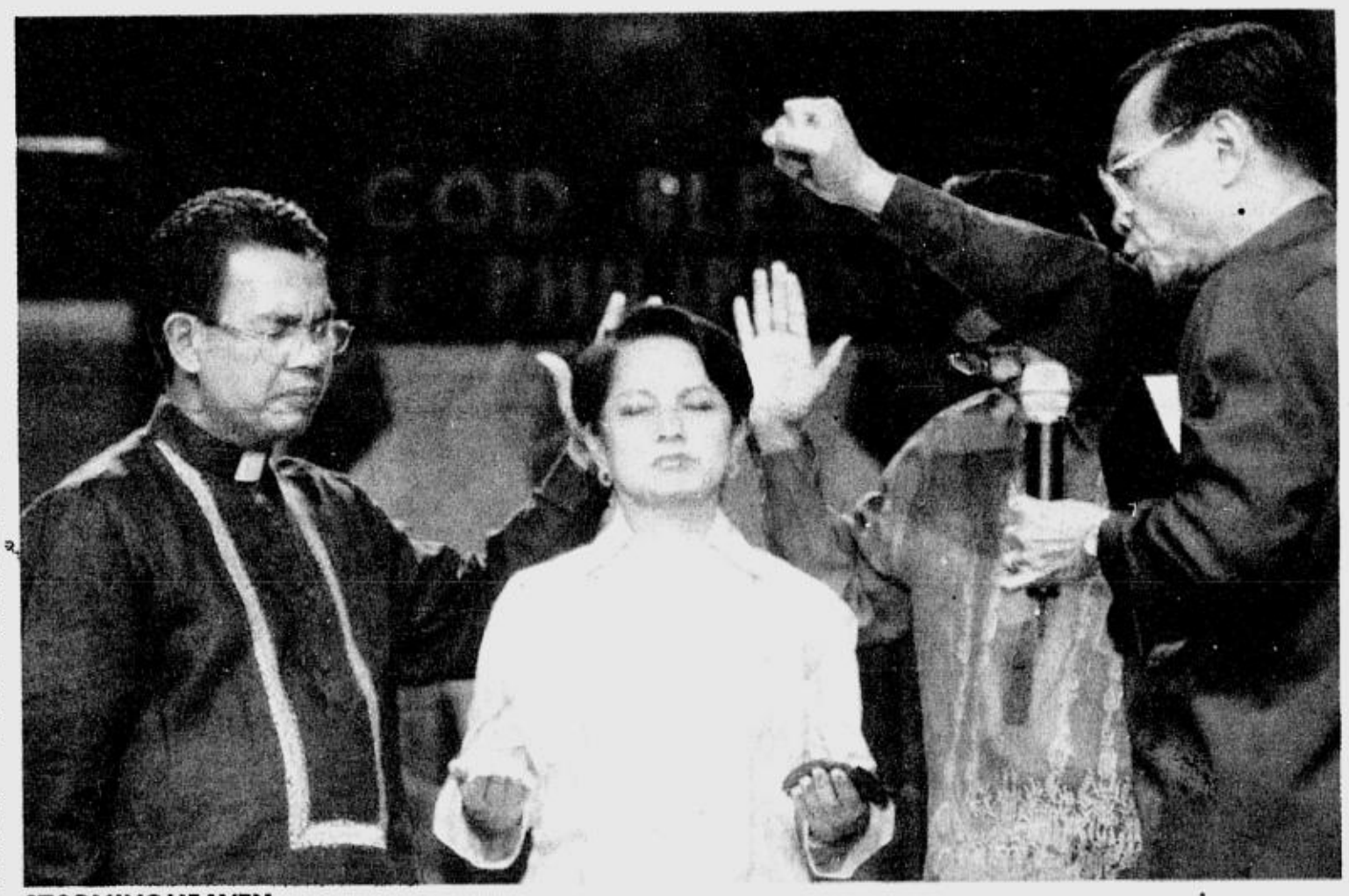
THE SENATE can use a 1950 Supreme Court ruling to compel businessman Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo Jr. to shed light on the Jose Pidal bank accounts at the Senate inquiry into allegations that his older brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, laundered money using the accounts, Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday.

Angara said the Supreme Court ruling upheld a Senate move to cite for contempt an uncooperative Frenchman. He was detained on orders of the chamber for refusing to identify a relative of then President Elpidio Quirino whom he allegedly bribed to pave the way for the sale of a government property in Novaliches.

Ignacio is invoking his right to privacy in refusing to answer questions about his financial capacity, businesses and the bank accounts he claimed he opened under the name of Jose Pidal. Sen. Panfilo Lacson claims that the First Gentleman owned the Jose Pidal accounts.

Ignacio said he was willing to be detained by the Senate. "No private individual should be haled to any legislative hearing in aid of legislation and, in an adversarial

IGGY/A20



STORMING HEAVEN
Leaders of various Christian organizations pray over President Macapagal-Arroyo during the "God Bless the Philippines" prayer and worship concert at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Monday night. PCPO/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Break up with Mike, Lakas solon urges GMA

By Carlito Pablo

A LAKAS lawmaker yesterday proposed a radical move to stem what he called the state of alarm in the ruling party: that President Macapagal-Arroyo file for legal separation from her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Such a move, according to Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, would "effectively shield the President from the devastating effects of the Jose Pidal controversy" and prevent her administration from being "destroyed."

Told that his suggestion could

BREAK UP/A20

Conjoined Negros twins flying to NY

CARL and Clarence Aguirre, the 17-month-old twins who are conjoined at the top of their heads, may soon have the chance to live normal lives. They were scheduled to fly to New York last night for an operation where doctors will try to separate them.

The twins were to be accompanied by their mother, Arlene, 30, and Philippine Airlines Foundation executive director Carmen Sarmiento.

"I'm excited, but at the same time

CONJOINED/A12

SC final judge of right to privacy—Bernas

By Volt Contreras and Cynthia D. Balana

BUSINESSMAN Ignacio Arroyo Jr., brother-in-law of President Macapagal-Arroyo, might as well go to court if senators grilling him over the Jose Pidal accounts would force him to give details of his personal finances, a constitutional expert yesterday said.

"My own thinking is that this case should eventually go to the Supreme Court so that it can clarify what precisely does the provision of the Constitution mean when it says the rights of a person appearing in a legislative inquiry should be protected," Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas said.

"They (senators) could be embarrassed if the court decides against them," said Bernas, dean of the Ateneo de Manila College of Law and member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

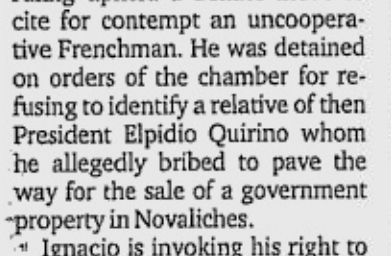
Ignacio invoked his right to privacy in refusing to answer questions from senators about his financial transactions.

Bernas said Ignacio, younger brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, could go to the high tribunal should some senators make good their threat to have him cited for contempt and detained.

He indicated that a test case would be set should Ignacio go to the Supreme Court. While jurisprudence has "plenty" of cases concerning individuals invoking their right against self-incrimination, there is "no precedent" when it comes to the right to privacy as invoked in legislative inquiries, the Jesuit priest said.

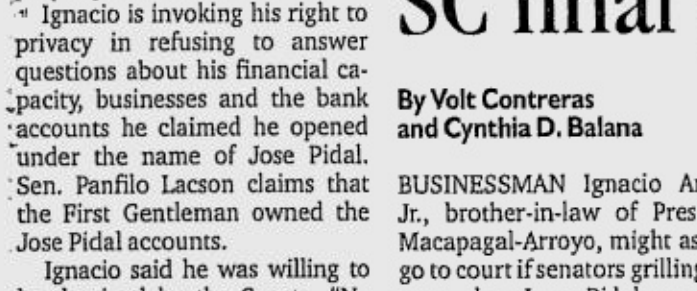
He shared these views in an in-

SC FINAL/A20



WHODUNIT

Top airport official killed in ambush



THE L300 Exceed where Lilia Diaz (top) was shot dead in Parañaque City. ROGER MARGALLO

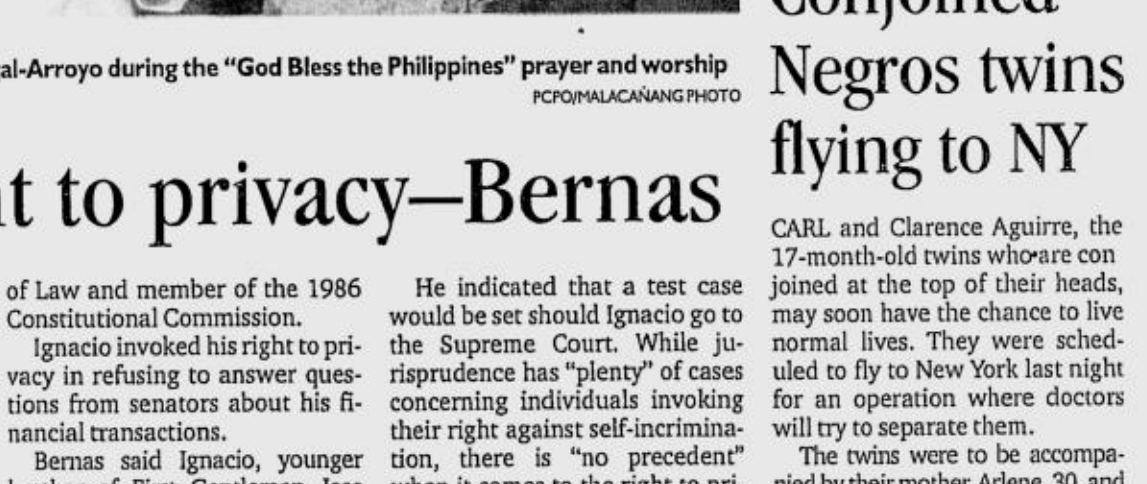
By Alcuin Papa, Christian V. Esguerra and Jerome Aning

A DARING AMBUSH on a ranking official of the Manila International Airport Authority supposedly motivated by her crusade for reforms resulted in her death yesterday morning.

A lone shot was fired at Lilia Diaz, 47, MIAA assistant general manager for finance and administration, as she was being driven to work, said Parañaque City chief of police Supt. Ronald Estilles. The bullet entered Diaz's right shoulder and pierced her heart.

Estilles said Diaz's driver Edwin Defeo

TOP/A21



WHAT appears to be a fish at first glance is nothing more than the reflection of a cloud on the right window of Diaz's van. And the eye is the hole left by the single shot that killed the Naia official.

ROGER MARGALLO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/10/03

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

ASEAN SECURITY COOPERATION

Antiterror war games eyed

THE ARMY chiefs of the Philippines and Indonesia yesterday called for joint regional exercises to boost the antiterror war but other Southeast Asian nations said existing bilateral arrangements were sufficient.

Indonesian Army chief Gen. Ryamizard Ryacudu said the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations should coordinate efforts and "where possible ... conduct joint operations on how to deal with terrorism."

Such cooperation was necessary to prevent terrorists from moving between countries in the region, he told reporters at the start of a one-day annual meeting of Asean Army chiefs.

Also in Manila yesterday, Asean police chiefs began a three-day summit yesterday under pressure to strengthen often patchy cooperation in the fight against terror and to combat transnational crime like trafficking of illegal drugs.

Despite the capture and conviction of several high-profile Islamic militants in the region, analysts say the potential for attacks remains high and cooperation by police forces has been too constrained by national boundaries.

The conference of police chiefs comes after last month's car bombing of the United States-owned JW Marriott hotel in Jakarta in which 12 people died and 150 were wounded. Indonesia has blamed the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group for the attack.

Echoing Indonesia's call, Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio M. Camiling said regional military exercises under the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (Seato) disbanded in 1977 should be revived.

Seato was established in 1955 as a defense pact but never fulfilled an active military role amid internal tensions due to an underlying lack of common strategic interest.

Recalling joint exercises with Asean countries way back in the 1950s and 1960s, Camiling suggested that the multilateral exercises be revived, particularly with Indonesia and Malaysia.

The three countries in May 2002 sealed a pact to combat the spread of terrorism and transnational crime in the region.

But other Asean members were less enthusiastic about such regional exercises, saying current bilateral arrangements were effective and easier to manage.

"We do not have any formal multilateral pact but the web of activities bilaterally is very strong, stronger than a multilateral forum. We would like to keep it that way," said Malaysian Army chief Gen. Mohamed Shahrom Nordin.

Singapore Army chief Maj. Gen. Desmond Kuek said the bilateral approach has been "useful in allowing us to explore new areas of cooperation."

Andrew Tan of Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies said recent terror attacks had given the region's police forces a major reason to share information and coordinate more closely.

"When we look at the whole issue of security cooperation against terrorism in the region, it's been pretty ad hoc," he told Reuters.

Police commissioners from Australia and New Zealand joined their Asean counterparts as observers of the conference.

Delegates agreed on the need to enhance the sharing of intelligence information and strengthen regional security to combat possible attacks from the JI and local terrorist groups. *AFP, Reuters and Christian V. Esguerra*

Terror alert raised on 9/11 anniversary

By TJ Burgonio

SECURITY forces have been placed on heightened alert to thwart possible terror attacks by the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist group as the world marks tomorrow the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The Philippines was among the first countries to back the US-led war on terror, and there have been concerns the country has become a target for terrorist groups in Southeast Asia.

Fears of more terror attacks in Southeast Asia by the JI have grown following the conviction last week of the group's spiritual leader Abu Bakar Bashir and the recent arrest of its operations chief Riduan Isamuddin, alias Hambali, in Thailand.

Military intelligence units have been placed on alert for any retaliatory attacks from local Muslim radicals, according to military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

The JI is said to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's international terrorist network which is blamed for the bombings in Bali that killed more than 200 people last year.

"We are on alert for possible retaliation [because] of the capture of Hambali. So we heightened our alert level to blue," Lucero said.

"It's actually aimed at preparing for any terroristic activity not from the Magdalo [coup plotters] group, but from the terrorists," he explained.

The blue alert status has been in effect since the first week of August after almost all 356 officers and enlisted men who staged the July 27 failed coup were accounted for. The military had been on full alert before that.

Lucero said 2,000 troops were on the heels of Hambali associate Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian member of the JI, who escaped from a high-security jail in Camp Crame in July.

Both men are accused of planning a spate of bombings in Metro Manila in December 2000 that killed over 20 people.

Elite antiterror police units meanwhile were placed around Manila.

Lucero made clear however that military intelligence agents have not monitored any specific plot by any group to sow terror in Metro Manila or any urban center.

Confessed bomber changes plea to not guilty

By Tarra Quismundo

NOW, he's taking it back.

Muklis Hádji Yunos, who confessed to the Rizal Day bombing of the Light Rail Transit in 2000, has filed a motion before the court to withdraw his plea of guilt.

Yunos, during his arraignment on July 8 at the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 54, entered a guilty plea. His new motion seeks to change his plea to not guilty.

In a motion for withdrawal of improvident plea of guilt, Yunos' counsel, Fidel Macauyag, said the accused confessed to the charges of multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder, and multiple attempted murder, because he was "under duress" and that he did not "understand and fully comprehend the consequence of what he has admitted."

Yunos, with 10 others, including Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, have been charged with the LRT bombing on Dec. 30, 2000, where 12 persons were killed and 19 were injured.

The defense counsel, in the motion dated Sept. 5, said that in an interview with Yunos while he was detained at the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group detention cell in Camp Crame, the accused tearfully told him that he was under pressure and that "he could not properly communicate with his counsel de officio because the latter does not speak Maranao," when he entered a guilty plea.

In previous court proceedings, Yunos was assisted by National Bureau of Investigation interpreter Onos Mangutara, who translated communication to Yunos to Maranao.

The motion cited that Yunos has "poor communication" skills in Tagalog and English.

Yunos' counsel, a replacement for Aida Dizon who attended his pre-trial on Aug. 20, said that Yunos "maintains his innocence and claims he is another fall guy."

During his pre-trial, Yunos admitted to knowing his fellow accused Al-Ghozi, alleged explosives supplier Cusain Ramos, alleged Jemaah Islamiyah leaders Abubakar Bafana Faiz and Isamuddin Riduan Hambali, his school mate in a military academy in Afghanistan from 1987 to 1989.

Yunos, however, said he was not sure whether the two were members of the terrorist group. He also declined to comment whether he had anything to do with the planning of the LRT bombing.

Couple's quarrel, not terror attack

THE POWERFUL grenade explosion that tore through a public market in Cotabato City on Monday was an offshoot of a couple's quarrel and not a terror attack, military officials said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Armed Forces' information officer, also clarified that nobody was killed in the explosion. He said 18 people were injured.

Lucero said that the blast happened following an altercation between Hamsa Maulana Tau and his wife, Snooky Maulana Nur, at the old market on Bonifacio Street in the city at around 8:05 p.m. Monday.

Citing field reports, he said that Tau, 42, and his wife, 30, were seen grappling for a bag before a crowd of people in the market. After wresting the bag away, the man stuffed a hand grenade inside and tossed it on the road. *TJ Burgonio*

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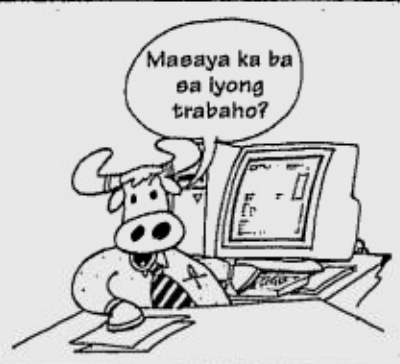

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Today's *What's News* questions:
1. Who plays Mei Li in the hit musical "Flower Drum Song"?
   a. KC Concepcion
   b. Monique Wilson
   c. Leah Salonga
   d. Antoinette Taus
2. Who did Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera kiss at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards?
   a. Justin Timberlake
   b. Eminem
   c. Madonna
   d. Chris Rock
3. Who is the award-winning author of *Dekada '70*?
   a. Lualhati Bautista
   b. Laurice Guillen
   c. Bob Ong
   d. Nick Joaquin
4. Legally Blonde 2: Bigger, Bolder, _____?
   a. Blonder
   b. Better
   c. Brighter
   d. None of the above
5. He believes that "The Filipino is worth dying for".
   a. Ferdinand Marcos
   b. Joseph Estrada
   c. Fidel V. Ramos
   d. Benigno Aquino Jr.

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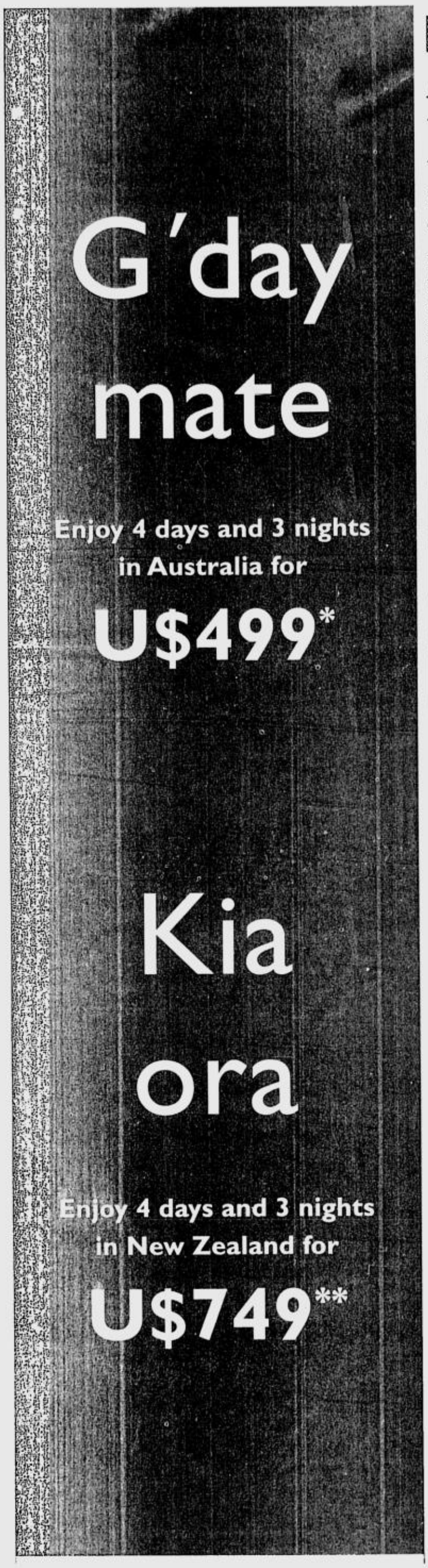

AIRPORT FUND MESS

Erap to Manda: Why only now?

By Armand N. Nocum

"WHAT took him so long?"

Ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday took Ninoy Aquino International Airport General Manager Edgardo Manda to task for failing to immediately file charges relative to alleged fund irregularities involving a dummy firm supposedly put up by his (Estrada's) cronies.

In a telephone interview, Estrada demanded to know why it took Manda almost three years to report the alleged P446 million fund mess involving Saber Development Foundation Inc.

"Why did he not immediately terminate the contract which he now claims to be onerous? They themselves operated the foundation for some time," Estrada said in mixed English and Filipino, referring to Manda and other airport officials.

'Diversionary tactic'

He did not discount the possibility that Manda was merely drawing attention away from the Jose Pidal controversy hounding First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo. "This is surely a diversionary tactic," Estrada said.

The Saber issue surfaced after Sen. Panfilo Lacson linked Manda to alleged illegal campaign contributions given to the Arroyos' Lualhati Foundation, which Manda used to head.

"They'd better stop all this nonsense," said Estrada, who denied having anything to do with Saber, or knowing anybody listed as incorporator. The foundation, headed by a certain Richard Harn, was supposedly put up to finance the education of Muslim scholars.

Estrada is facing plunder and graft charges before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly amassing millions from jueteng collections and kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax. Part of these funds had gone to another foundation set up by the ex-President, also for Muslim scholars.

Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto Nocos said the anti-graft office would "take cognizance" of the Saber issue, should "criminal liability" be determined on the part of Estrada.

'Unexplained wealth'

He said they would find out if Estrada and his cronies had accumulated "unexplained wealth" from this latest alleged scam, and whether this was not yet part of the charges already filed against Estrada.

"If there is plunder, we can go after ex-President Estrada for this," he told the INQUIRER.

Estrada welcomed this, saying, "Let them investigate me, so I can clear my name."

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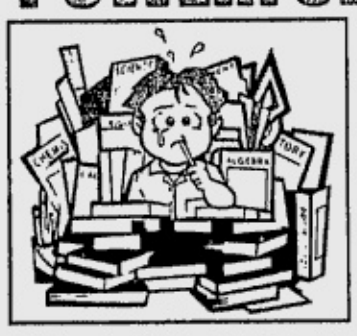

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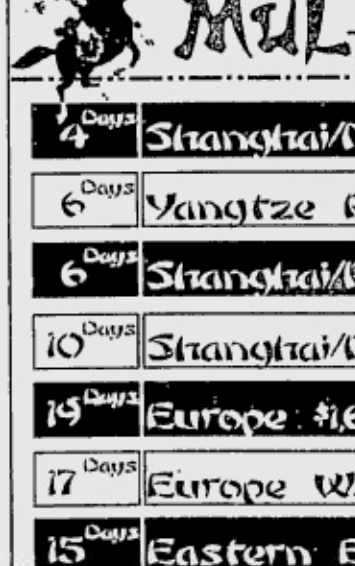

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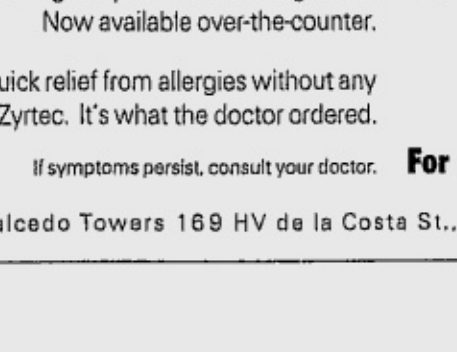

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Ampalaya war gets bitter; solon tags multinationals' lobbyist

By Carlito Pablo

THE AMPALAYA war is becoming bitter.

Congressmen yesterday assailed Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit for downgrading the ampalaya (bitter melon) from its status as an established alternative cure for diabetes.

Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon) said DOH decisions should henceforth carry this warning: "Secretary of Health's opinion could be dangerous to one's health."

Zubiri said Dayrit acted "like an *albularyo* (quack doctor) when he de-listed ampalaya without scientific basis." He said the move worked against people who relied on affordable medicine.

As for the reported lobbying by foreign drug companies that supposedly led to the downgrading, Zubiri said it was unfortunate that Dayrit had swallowed their arguments, "hook, line and sinker."

Ampalaya tea and pills are now a P700 million-a-year venture, eating up 26 per cent of the total market for diabetes medicines.

In a privilege speech, Rep. Arthur Pingoy (NPC, South Cotabato) named Leo Wassmer, chief executive officer of the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), as lobby mastermind.

The PHAP is composed of 84 drug companies.

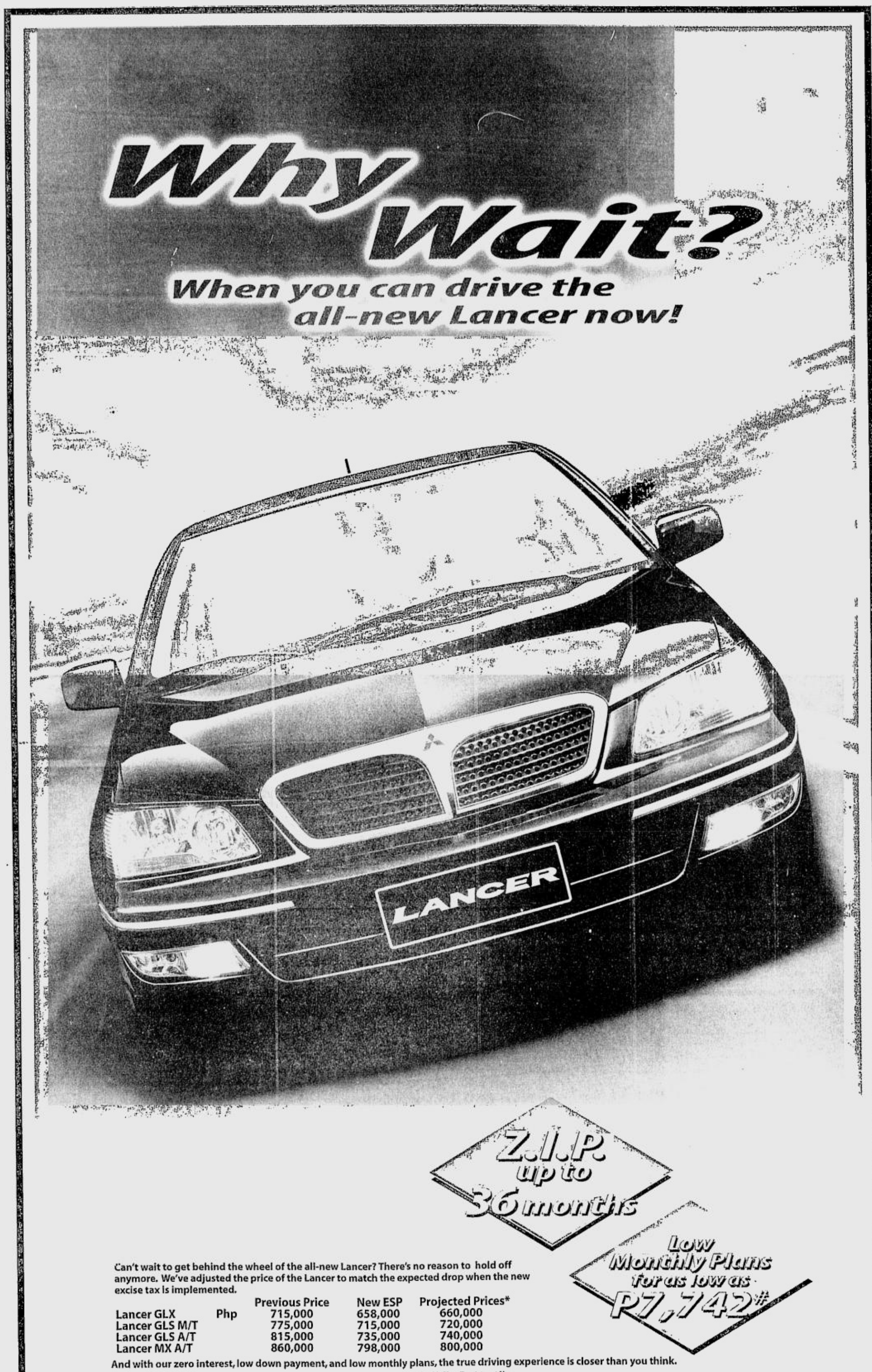
Pingoy recalled: "(Wassmer) is the top lieutenant of the multinationals who constantly attended deliberations of the [House] committee on health and the committee on trade and industry last Congress and opposed legislative initiatives that sought to lower the prices of drugs in the country."

The former general manager of Elli Lilly, Wassmer also vigorously opposed the passage of the Generics Act of 1988, and sued the Department of Health during the Ramos administration for its policy of importing cheaper drugs.

Pingoy, a medical doctor and chair of the sub-committee on health standards, quoted from Wassmer's letter to PHAP members dated Aug. 5, 2003, which he said confirmed the lobbying.

"As a result of our representation, the Bureau of Food and Drugs conducted inquiries on the medicinal claims made by entities marketing ampalaya-based products .... Since results of studies do not support ... ampalaya as a truly beneficial and even as an adjunctive treatment to diabetes mellitus, Health Secretary Dayrit advised all concerned to cease, desist and discontinue any endorsement of ampalaya as an alternative treatment."

Pingoy insisted that no consultations were undertaken before Dayrit ordered ampalaya stricken off the list of 10 herbal preparations declared by the DOH in 1995 as scientifically proven medical alternatives.



Truth is in Gringo's underarm, but why won't he show it?

By Nelson Forte Flores

THE ARMPITS show has hit a snag.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday wondered why opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan refused to do his part, if only to disprove his reported involvement in the failed July 27 coup.

"What is he afraid of?" Lina asked upon learning that the senator would not take the "armpit test."

Lina said this showed the senator was "hiding the truth" and could not prove non-participation in a blood compact rite connected with the mutiny.

"It appears Honasan is really guilty of the crime of coup d'etat," the Interior chief said. "Otherwise what is the big deal?"

Before the members of the Senate press corps, Honasan earlier said the allegations against him had no basis, and so he wouldn't have his left armpit scrutinized, as Lina had challenged him to do.

Army Maj. Perfecto Ragil, one of the government witnesses against the mutineers, claimed to have seen the senator during the blood compact rites.

In his testimony, Ragil gave a detailed account of a meeting of the coup plotters last June 4 which he attended. He said Honasan was there, and that the meeting ended in the blood compact ritual, during which they each carved an "I" mark on the inner portion of their left arm.

In the very least, Lina said, Honasan's cooperation would quell speculations that the senator had undergone cosmetic surgery to erase the supposed blood compact scar.

Until then, on to the other armpits.

House starts impeach hearing vs Davide today

By Carlito Pablo

THE HOUSE committee on justice starts its hearings today on the impeachment complaint filed by ousted President Joseph Estrada against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven other justices who upheld the legality of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ascension to the presidency in January 2001.

Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) said yesterday that the impeachment complaint is assured of getting a vote of being sufficient in form. "It will get the vote on the ground that the complaint complies with the form of impeachment complaints in the past," he said.

But Suplico conceded that subsequent hearings are expected to be marred by heated debates, particularly when the committee decides to determine whether the impeachment complaint is sufficient in substance or that it can stand on its merits.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Marcelino Libanan (NPC, Eastern Samar), has 20 session days to determine whether the impeachment complaint is sufficient in both form and substance.

In his June 2 complaint, Estrada accused the Supreme Court of violating the 1987 Constitution by installing Ms Macapagal who was then vice-president to the presidency at the height of the January 2001 Edsa 2 revolt.

Aside from Davide, also included in the complaint were Justices Artemio Panganiban Jr., Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona.

Suplico and Reps. Ronaldo Zamora (Pwersa ng Masa, San Juan) and Didagen Dilangalen (Pwersa ng Masa, Maguindanao) endorsed the impeachment complaint filed by Estrada.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) explained that under the House's set of procedures, an impeachment complaint is deemed sufficient in form on two grounds.

"One if it is verified and sworn to as provided in the rules of court," Nograles said. "Second is if the resolution of endorsement conforms with the prescribed format."

A vote by a third of the House would be needed to impeach the justices, after which the case would be elevated to the Senate for trial, which could result in their removal from office.

In an interview Monday, Dilangalen said that persistent questions regarding the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration are at the core of the current political instability in the country.

Dilangalen said that the manner by which President Macapagal assumed power through the ouster of Estrada is encouraging military adventurers to similarly take their shot at power through unconstitutional means.

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro (NPC, Tarlac) said that while the legitimacy of the Macapagal government may have already been settled, this does not mean that Supreme Court justices who played a role in Edsa 2 should go scot-free.

Teodoro said that the justices have engaged in "overreaching" acts when they allowed the swearing in of Ms Macapagal as the new President during Edsa II.

Teodoro also dismissed fears that the impeachment hearings will only worsen the current political tensions in the country.

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We call on the alumni and resident members of the various chapters of the Scintilla Juris Fraternity and affiliate organizations, to contact their respective college chapters for more details. For Further inquiries, members may also call the Secretariat at Suite 324 Secretariat Building PICC, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, telephone numbers (02) 834-0085 and 834-0086 and fax (02) 831-3828 or send e-mail to jotri87@yahoo.com or boyet_ilagan@yahoo.com.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Singaporean confirmed to have SARS

SINGAPORE—A second test on a Singapore man suspected of having Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, has confirmed he has the illness, the government said Tuesday.

"It appears to be a single isolated case," the Ministry of Health said.

The case is Singapore's first in four months.

It is not yet known how the 27-year-old Singaporean laboratory technician contracted the illness. He is a postdoctoral student working on the West Nile virus, the ministry said in a statement.

Twenty-five people who came in contact with the man have been issued home quarantine orders, it said.

Acting Minister of Health Khaw Boon Wan told reporters that the man had no recent travel history and no known contact with any SARS patients.

Khaw said he thought the man posed a "low public health risk" because he was isolated quickly.

The case could mark the return of SARS, which killed more than 900 people worldwide after it first emerged last November in China.

However, officials from the World Health Organization were hesitant to say the case was the start of a fresh epidemic.

By WHO's current definition of a probable case, there must be at least two SARS patients reported in the same hospital environment.

WHO regional spokesperson Peter Cordingley said in the Philippines that Singapore officials had already traced people who were in contact with the man, "and none of them is sick."

Khaw also sought to play down the risk of another full-blown epidemic.

"I don't think this is a repeat of the crisis many months ago," Khaw said.

Cordingley said the man's lungs had no signs of inflammation associated with SARS, although he had fever and some rash.

SARS virus samples were handled at the Environmental Health Institute lab at the National Environment Agency where the man worked, Khaw said.

But Khaw refused to speculate on whether the man may have gotten sick from samples in the lab.

Hitoshi Oshitani, WHO regional adviser for communicable disease surveillance and response, said earlier Tuesday that the man apparently did not specifically work on the SARS virus but that Singapore officials were checking whether he could have had contact with it in the laboratory.

The last case of SARS here was reported in early May and Singapore's tough isolation measures were praised by the WHO. The disease killed 33 and sickened 238 in Singapore.

More than 8,400 people were sickened worldwide before WHO declared in June that the disease had been "stopped dead in its tracks."

Singapore's SARS epidemic began in March this year and raged for three months, sending the city-state's economy into a tailspin. Visitor arrivals fell by as much as 75 percent and hotel occupancy rates plunged from their average 75 percent to as low as 25 percent as tourists and business travelers stayed away. *AP*

HONG Kong residents walk below a giant monitor showing news footage of a masked nurse in a Singapore hospital where a lab technician is reported to have contracted SARS. REUTERS

North Korea brandishes nuke threat at big parade

SEOUL—North Korea's top leaders vowed Tuesday to push ahead with nuclear weapons development in a defiant gesture at a massive parade celebrating the 55th anniversary of the Stalinist government.

Up to one million people, including strongman Kim Jong-il, gathered in Pyongyang's Kim Il-sung Square as North Korea's Army chief took a swipe at the United States and extolled the nation's nuclear weapons drive.

Fears that the Stalinist state would go a step further and test a missile or a nuclear bomb proved unfounded.

Neither did the regime showcase any new missiles or military hardware in the 90-minute parade of civilians and soldiers.

"There was no military technical hardware in the parade. Only uniformed military units marching in columns," said Poland's Ambassador to North Korea Wojciech Kaluza, who attended the ceremony.

Kim Yong-chun, chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army, said in a speech at the start of the parade that North Korea would build up its nuclear arsenal, according to the official Korean Central News Agency, monitored here.

The United States believes North Korea has up to two nuclear weapons and could build half a dozen more from spent nuclear fuel within months.

"The DPRK (North Korea) will continue to increase its nuclear deterrent force as a means for just self-defense in order to defend the sovereignty of the country as the United States has not yet shown its will to drop its hostile policy toward the DPRK despite the DPRK's good faith and magnanimity," Kim was quoted as saying. *AFP*

Burma junta says it's still too early for democracy

RANGOON—The ruling junta said Tuesday it was "too early" to commit to a timeframe for its new democracy roadmap and was unable to say whether Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party could take part in drafting a new constitution for Burma (Myanmar).

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt detailed on Aug. 30 a seven-point roadmap aimed at shifting the isolated regime to democracy, including "free and fair" elections under a constitution to be drafted by a national convention.

But he did not divulge any timeframe for the execution of the plan, which has been dismissed by analysts in Rangoon as a sham and a reworking of previous promises to shift toward democracy.

"It's still too early to come up with a timeframe at this point because there are numerous steps that are needed to be taken even before the national constitution convention can be reconvened," Labor Minister Tin Win told reporters.

"But the government is committed to turning Myanmar into a peaceful and developed nation where genuine and disciplined democracy prevails," he said. "We will let you know as soon as things become clear."

Tin Win also said it was too early to say whether the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) would be permitted to participate in the national convention.

"It is still too early to come up with any definite answers on whether the NLD can join the national convention," he said.

Khin Nyunt said the first step of the roadmap would be the reconvening of the constitution convention suspended in 1996 following a boycott by the NLD, which deemed it unrepresentative.

During his speech announcing the plan the prime minister did not mention any role for Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel peace laureate who has been detained by the junta for more than three months after violence between a junta-backed mob and her supporters.

"The NLD was not expelled from the national convention in the first place. They themselves opted to withdraw their delegates," Tin Win said.

"According to the existing convention regulations any group which absents itself from the convention for more than 48 hours can be deemed to have forfeited their participation," he said, leaving open but not committing to the possibility that the regulations may change.

The junta, which calls itself the State Peace and Development Council, on Sunday named new members to a commission charged with overseeing the drafting of its new constitution in an initial step toward implementing the roadmap.

Lt. Gen. Thein Sein will take the helm as the commission's new chair while Chief Justice Aung Toe and Minister of Electric Power Maj. Gen. Tin Htut were named joint vice chairs. *AFP*

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AN OPEN LETTER TO HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Madame President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo,

We, in the transport industry have always been supportive of your initiatives and programs that we deem are for the over-all welfare of the country and the Filipino people. In particular, we agreed for the postponement of our petition for fare increase despite the rising prices of gasoline and all other petroleum products. This is after carefully considering the government's reasoning that it would be inflationary and would cause muchburden to the people.

There also have been talks and information that Land Transportation Franchising & Regulatory Board Chairman Dante M. Lantin will be replaced by someone from the Presidential Management Staff. This causes some paranoia and agitation among us in the transport industry because of the prevailing situation of too much politics and unstable fuel prices. It is becoming to be difficult for us not to request for a fare adjustment in the near future.

As such, we would like to request for a deferment of this decision, as we believe that this is untimely and several factors such as the current situation may have been overlooked. We in the transport industry believe that it is not the right time to replace an experienced, competent and honest transport official that in several occasions have proven more than equal in preserving the goodwill between the government and the transport industry.

This idea of replacing Chairman Lantin may also be looked upon as a political move considering the current political situation, which would gravely affect us in the transport industry.

Our support for your administration, Madame President could always be counted upon, again we would like to respectfully request for the deferment and re-evaluation of the decision in replacing Chairman Dante Lantin of LTFRB.

Very respectfully yours,

Zeny Maranan
President
Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Phils. (FEJODAP)

Medardo Roda
President Emeritus
Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (PISTON)

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Anacleto delos Santos
Managing Consultant
Cooperative Development Authority Consultant
Federation Cooperatives (Region 3)

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Indonesia court puts editor on probation

JAKARTA—A court on Wednesday found an Indonesian newspaper editor guilty of insulting Parliament Speaker Akbar Tanjung by publishing his caricature in the paper.

Karim Paputungan, chief editor of the Rakyat Merdeka (Free People) daily, published the cartoon in January 2002, when Tanjung was being investigated for allegedly embezzling 40 billion rupiah ($4.7 million) in state funds.

The South Jakarta district court put Paputungan on probation for 10 months for defamation and said he would face a five-month jail term if he breaks its conditions.

The caricature showed Tanjung shirtless, crippled, sweating and looking sad along with a banner reading "Akbar to be finished soon. Golkar cries blood."

Golkar, which is led by Tanjung, is the country's second largest party.

In August 2002, Tanjung was sentenced to three years in prison for his part in the misuse of the funds, intended for a program to feed the poor.

The Jakarta high court upheld Tanjung's conviction in January and he is now appealing to the Supreme Court. *AFP*

Trust in US ability to foil attacks drops

NEW YORK—Americans, particularly New Yorkers, are less confident in the government's ability to handle a terrorist attack than they were a year ago, according to a new study.

The Columbia University study, released Monday, found 46 percent of those surveyed believed authorities could "respond effectively" to a biological, chemical or nuclear attack, down from 53 percent last year. The drop was most dramatic among New Yorkers, from 53 percent to 36 percent.

More than half of New Yorkers lacked confidence that security was adequate at airports, compared with 41 percent of Americans nationally.

"This survey reflects an extraordinary lack of public confidence in the nation's level of preparedness for bioterrorism and major disasters," said Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the Columbia school's National Center for Disaster Preparedness.

The survey, timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist strikes, also found 76 percent of Americans and 81 percent of New Yorkers were "concerned or very concerned" about another attack in the United States.

Last month's telephone survey of 1,373 adults has an error margin of 3 percentage points.

The study by the university's Mailman School of Public Health found the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was the most trusted agency, and the surgeon general the most trusted official—ahead of President George W. Bush, Attorney General John Ashcroft and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

Brian Roehrkasser, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, said the agency had improved its capability to respond to bioterrorism, but that getting the message across was difficult.

"We realize there is work to do at the local level," he said.

Despite the lack of trust, however, fewer than 25 percent of American families have emergency plans in place, such as supplies of food, water, batteries, and portable radios. In New York, the figure is 14 percent.

Redlener said the drops in confidence might be related to "what is happening and how it is perceived by the public." For instance, the anthrax attacks have not been solved and the nation's smallpox program "collapsed" for lack of a delivery system even though enough vaccine existed for all Americans.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services did not immediately return calls seeking comment. *AP*

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Blix says Saddam truthful on arms

WASHINGTON—Iraq may have been truthful when it told the UN Security Council in December that it did not have chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, a former chief UN weapons inspector said late Monday.

The declaration, submitted last Dec. 7 by the government of then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, was quickly dismissed as false and incomplete by the United States and Britain, which accused Baghdad of failing to disarm as required by Security Council Resolution No. 1441.

These charges were later used by Washington and London to justify the invasion of the country in late March.

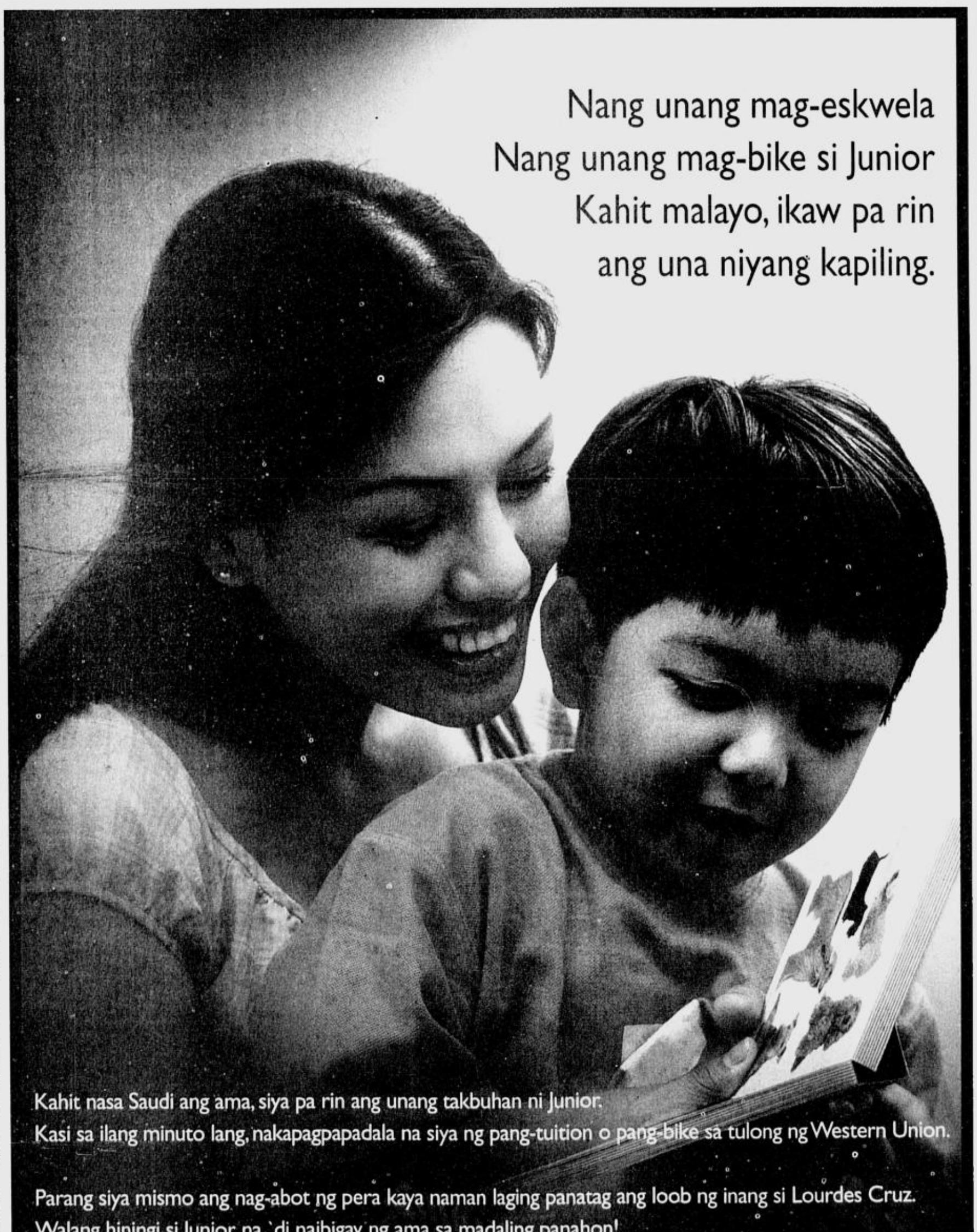
But more than four months after US President George W. Bush declared victory in Iraq, former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said facts presented by Iraq in the 12,000-page document may have been accurate.

"With this long period, I'm inclined to think that the Iraqi statement that they destroyed all the biological and chemical weapons, which they had in the summer of 1991 may well be the truth," Blix told CNN television.

The retired Swedish diplomat, who headed the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission for Iraq, said his inspectors had worked in Iraq for three-and-a-half months in late 2002 and early 2003 and "did not find any smoking gun."

Blix said US and British experts had now been scouring Iraq for weapons of mass destruction for several months and had the opportunity to interrogate members of the Iraqi establishment in their custody.

"I cannot fail to notice that some of the things that they expected us to see that they have turned out not to be real weapons of mass destruction," said the former chief inspector. *AFP*



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30 YEARS AFTER COUP

Legacies of oppression, prosperity tear at Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile—It would come to be known as Chile's own 9/11—the military coup led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet that crushed one of Latin America's oldest democracies in a hail of shot and shell.

The legacy, a generation later, still gnaws at Chilean society.

Strolling down Providencia Avenue, one of the city's classier shopping strips, it's hard to imagine that 30 years ago, on Sept. 11, 1973, the capital was under siege. Warplanes were bombing La Moneda, the presidential palace. Inside, 65-year-old Salvador Allende, Chile's first socialist president, was about to shoot himself with a submachine gun given to him in happier times by Fidel Castro.

Today the anti-Pinochet demonstrations have dwindled from thousands of people to dozens; a socialist, Ricardo Lagos, is president; the media are free to say what they please; and the stores on Providencia run from Gap to Starbucks to Gucci.

Chile has managed to take the free-market road without suffering the economic meltdown that engulfed neighboring Argentina. Though unemployment is 9.1 percent, the standard of living is the highest in Latin America after Costa Rica.

Yet for many, the coup and the widespread human rights violations that followed are as much a living legacy of Pinochet's 17-year regime as the economic miracle that Chile experienced. "Our transition to democracy has not been completed yet," Lagos says.

Reconciliation in this nation of 15 million "will probably happen only when a new generation comes, after we are all gone," said Patricio Aylwin, the man who ended the Pinochet era in 1990 by defeating the general's candidate in an election landslide.

Allende had been elected in 1970 with 36 percent of the vote in a three-way race, and introduced reforms that benefited the poor but harmed the economy and alienated foreign investors. He incurred the wrath of the administration of US President Richard Nixon by nationalizing major American-financed businesses and embracing Castro's Cuba in the midst of the Cold War. Allende killed himself during the coup rather than be seized by the military.

Under Pinochet, some 3,200 people were killed for political reasons according to an official report by a Commission of Truth appointed by the civilian government that succeeded the dictatorship. The figure includes 1,200 dissidents who disappeared while under arrest and who are one of the thorniest unresolved issues.

Chile today finds itself in a situation familiar to other ex-dictatorships: anxious to fill the blanks in recent history and move on, but unsure how far to stretch forgiveness.

Lagos is promoting a plan to compensate victims or their families, and to offer reduced prison sentences to human rights violators who come clean about their offenses. But the plan has been rejected by relatives and human rights groups, who think the offenders are getting a free pass.

Lagos denies this, noting that more than 300 military personnel past and present are under prosecution and that Pinochet himself was on trial last year until the charges against him were dropped on grounds of poor health.

Nonetheless, Lagos acknowledged to reporters last week that his proposal, which still requires congressional approval, "is just a step, not the definitive solution."

"This is a chapter that will not close," he added.

Aylwin said the disappeared are one such chapter—"an open wound in our society that needs to be healed." Efforts by the courts and three post-Pinochet civilian governments to trace them have had limited results, with only some 200 bodies found and 192 identified.

But there have been some breakthroughs. The military stunned the nation in 2001 by admitting 151 bodies were tossed into the sea and publishing their names. The information, however, proved wrong in at least four cases where bodies were eventually found in graves. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Wary eye on Iranians

JERUSALEM—Israel has hinted at possible military action to stop what it calls a nightmare scenario—nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran—but for now is waiting for US diplomatic pressure and closer international scrutiny to do the job. On Monday, the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is investigating suspicions of a secret Iranian nuclear weapons program, demanded full disclosure from Tehran, including acceptance of snap inspections. Israel estimates Iran is just two to three years away from having nuclear weapons. *AP*

Israel support sought

JERUSALEM—Israel indicated Tuesday it is willing to work with Ahmed Qureia, nominated as the new Palestinian prime minister, despite his close ties with veteran leader Yasser Arafat. In the West Bank, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy was killed by shrapnel from an Israeli tank shell fired at a suspected militants' hideout, witnesses said. Israel initially said after the weekend resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas that it would not deal with a successor handpicked by Arafat. *AP*

Iraq council gets seat

CAIRO—Torn for months over whether to recognize Iraq's US-appointed authority, the Arab League on Tuesday granted the fledgling Governing Council the Iraqi seat on the 22-member pan-Arab body. The decision is the league's first to officially recognize the council—appointed July 13 after US forces deposed Saddam Hussein's regime—as an authority able to represent Iraq on the regional stage. Iraq's first post-Saddam government will play its first Arab League role later Tuesday when Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, the Iraqi Kurdish leader appointed Sept. 1 when the council's Cabinet was named, sits down alongside other Arab League envoys when a two-day foreign ministerial conference begins. *AP*

Carter praises China

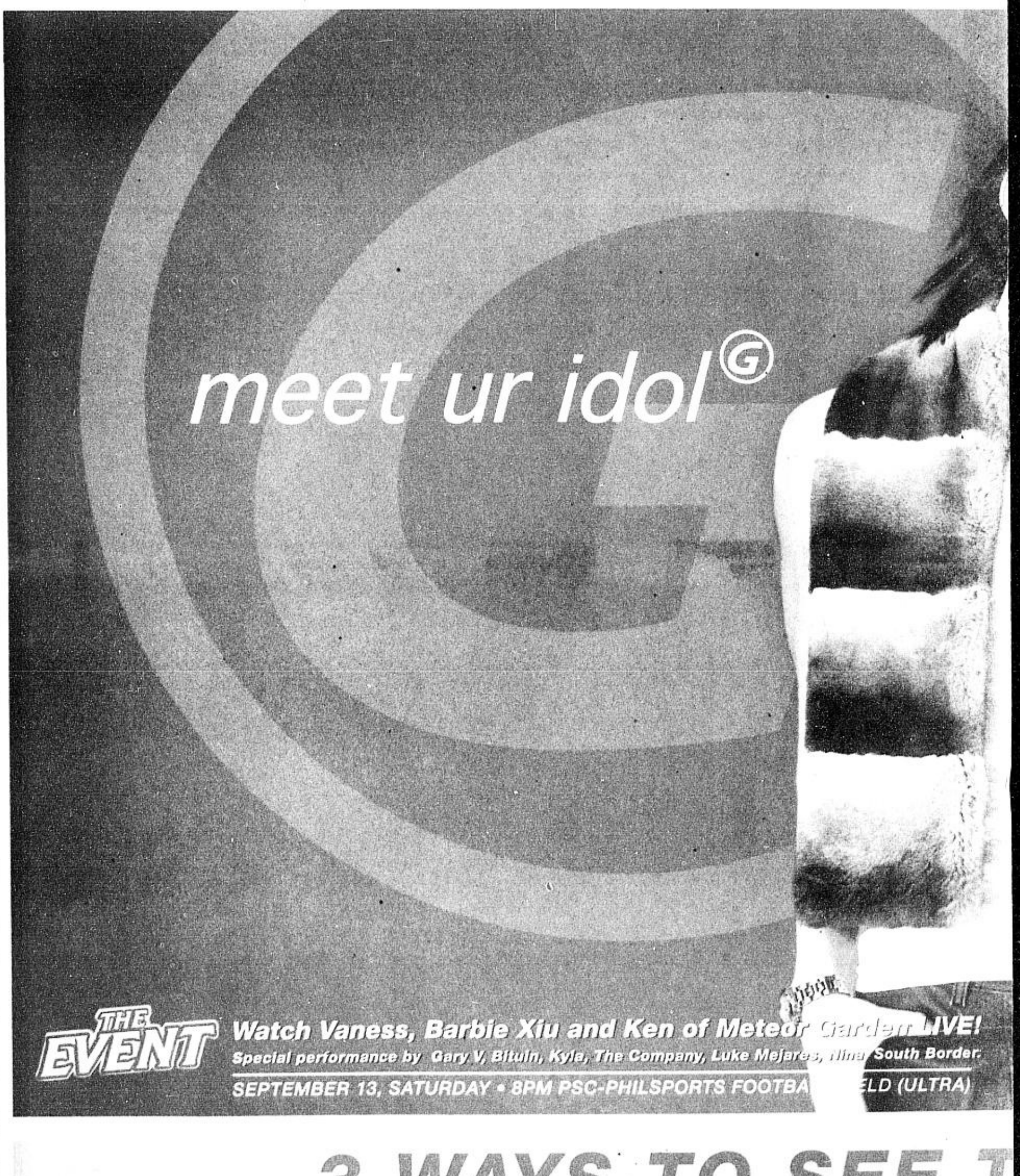
BEIJING—Addressing influential scholars and students at elite Peking University, former US President Jimmy Carter praised China's moves toward a more open society and said Tuesday that the country was ready for more changes to its one-party system. "The fact is, your great nation has already made the remarkable transition to a relatively open society with sustained economic growth," Carter said in a speech at the university's Economic Research Center. *AP*

Jurassic insects

MELBOURNE—What is believed to be the world's rarest insect has begun breeding at the Melbourne Zoo, officials said Tuesday. A female Lord Howe Island Stick Insect began laying eggs in February and the first hatched on Sunday, said Patrick Honan, a zoo official. About 100 eggs are still incubating at the zoo, he said. The Lord Howe Island Stick Insects belong to a group of ancient invertebrates nicknamed "Jurassic insects." The breeding pair of the rare creatures in Melbourne are the only adults of the species in captivity. The species was believed to be extinct for more than 80 years after rats introduced to Lord Howe Island in the Tasman Sea about 700 km east of Australia killed the flightless insects off in 1918. But a scientific expedition in 2001 discovered some of the insects surviving in harsh conditions on Ball's Pyramid, a huge rocky outcrop located near Lord Howe Island. *AFP*

Suicide prevention

BEIJING—Reversals of fortune, spousal screaming bouts, ruined harvests, failed exams—in much of Asia, tales of suicide are common. Studies show sudden events are more likely to prompt people in Asia to take their own lives than in the West, where more than 90 percent of victims display prior mental problems. Women also tend be more vulnerable. The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and World Health Organization have proclaimed Wednesday the first World Suicide Prevention Day. A major aim is to spread awareness in developing societies with high suicide rates such as China, India and Sri Lanka, where agricultural pesticides are easy to come by but psychiatric help, or even stomach pumps, very hard. Chinese businessman Wu Zhengyao says his wife and daughter never planned to die. The day they confronted police notaries, who claimed Wu falsified testimony in a friend's case, he saw no signs they might trade their lives to try to clear his name. Cold-shouldered, shooed away and finally shown the door that day at a criminal records office in Shenyang, his wife Liu Yakun gulped pesticides and dropped to the floor. Daughter Wu Ying, 14, scrawled two farewell notes and swallowed the same fate. "Your reputation is like your life," mused the childless widower last week in Beijing. "When you lose it, no amount of money can buy it back," the former cloth wholesaler explained. *Reuters*



3 WAYS TO SEE T

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3. The four winners will also get one free VIP Center seat each (valued at P10,000 each) to watch THE EVENT concert.
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Conjoined Negros twins flying to New York

THE AGUIRRE twins—Carl and Clarence—get a chance to live normal, separate lives when they go under the knife in New York soon. AMELIA D. ...

nervous," Arlene told INQ7.net in a telephone interview. "I hope the tests on the babies turn out well. I'm leaving it all up to God.

"I long to see the day when my children can play on their own and see each other face to face," Arlene said.

In New York, Dr. James Goodrich, director of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center, said the twins were expected to be ready for surgery by the end of October.

Goodrich said the odds were good that the twins could live normal, independent lives. The most dangerous part of the procedure was expected to be working on the vein the two brothers share.

PAL Foundation is shouldering the plane tickets for the Aguirres. The US-based nonprofit organization Children's Chance helped find sponsors for the operation.

Two baby carriages were joined together by the crew of the Philippine Airlines to hold the 17-month-old twins during the flight.

The procedure on the twins, including hospitalization costs and medical fees, could reach up to $2 million, according to Dorita Urrata, director of Children's Chance.

Dr. Ceres Baldevia Gay, a pediatrician who attended to the twins in Bacolod City, said Arlene was "excited, nervous and hopeful" about the outcome of the surgery.

Arlene, a nurse, said she had talked to the twins and told them to prepare for the operation.

She said she can sensed her children were excited, too, to take the trip because she told them it would pave the way for them to live as separate individuals.

"They are OK. They were always in good mood these past days," she said.

Carl and Clarence, who at 6.5 and 6.1 kilograms, respectively, are underweight, will first be confined at the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, New York, for two months for a series of medical tests and to build them up nutritionally for the operation. They will be recuperating in the same hospital after the operation for around one year.

The surgery will be performed by 30 surgeons and doctors.

A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test on the twins in a Manila hospital showed their brains to be completely separate, and doctors are hopeful that they could be separated successfully.

Craniopagus twins—those who are conjoined at the head—are very rare, occurring in one in every two million births.

The recent surgical separation of 29-year-old Iranian twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani in Singapore resulted in their deaths. But there have been successful cases of surgical separation of craniopagus twins, specifically those who were operated on while they were still very young.

Because they are conjoined at the top of their heads, all Carl and Clarence could do is lie on their backs and tilt to their side. Their movements have to be coordinated so they would not be pulling at different directions. When one boy moves in the opposite direction, the other's eyes become distended and the veins in their heads swell.

It takes two people, one for each twin, to carry Carl and Clarence.

Arlene, who lives in Silay City, Negros Occidental, resigned from her job as a nurse to take care of the boys when they were born. Her mother, Evelyn, also had to resign from her work as an accountant to help Arlene. ***With reports from Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; INQ7.net and AP***

Cult leader ...

From page A1

DENNIS SABANGAN

ECLEO JR.

in the Cebu City jail could have been mistaken for a bachelor's pad Monday night, when a surprise inspection revealed it to contain as much as P360,000 in different currencies, four electric guitars—and one portable chainsaw.

Ecleo, also known as a rock musician, was detained in June last year on parricide charges after he was accused of killing his wife, Alona Bacolod, in January last year.

Also seized from Ecleo's cell were a 3310 Nokia cellphone, one electric drum set, a violin, a flute, a headphone, an electronic gadget, one table vise, a hand drill and a humidifier.

The money was in pesos, US dollars, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars, Japanese yen, British pounds and euros. It included 54 pieces of P1,000 bills and 103 pieces of P500 bills; a total of $2,898 in different dollar bills; eight £50 bills; two C$50 bills; nine ¥10,000 bills and one ¥500 bill; one 50-euro bill; and A$400.

There were also at least three checks, for $1,000, $500 and P1,000.

The discovery of the money raised suspicions among jail officials that Ecleo, the "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, might be using the money to bribe his jail guards to gain privileges and special treatment. Ecleo is also the former mayor of San Jose, Danagat Island, in Surigao del Sur.

Surprise inspection

The items were discovered during the conduct of Operation Greyhound, a surprise inspection conducted by newly installed warden Supt. Nestor Velasquez at around 7 p.m. on Monday. The operation came in the wake of last Friday's dawn jailbreak by three inmates convicted of serious crimes.

Velasquez said Ecleo's cell was the first to be inspected. Instead of the expected cursory inspection, however, the search ended past 9 p.m. because of the number of banned items found in the cell.

Ecleo shares with four other inmates infirmary Cell No. 3, located on the roof deck of the city jail.

Velasquez assumed the post of warden on Saturday, a day after the jailbreak. One of the escapees was re-arrested on Saturday evening.

Velasquez promised to continue the conduct of surprise inspection inside the jail to change the facility's image and to prove to Cebu City officials that corruption in the jail would not be tolerated under his administration.

Members' donations?

Velasquez said the money found in the cell could be donations from PBMA members here and abroad.

Some of the money was still inside envelopes and kept in a money box, he added.

Velasquez said he ordered the money confiscated because a prisoner was not allowed to keep large amounts of money—a clear violation of the jail manual.

He said keeping such amounts could also endanger Ecleo's life. Or Ecleo could also use the money to bribe jail officers.

Velasquez disclosed that Ecleo had in fact admitted that he had given money to some jail guards. The cult leader refused to name the guards and how much he gave to them, the new warden said.

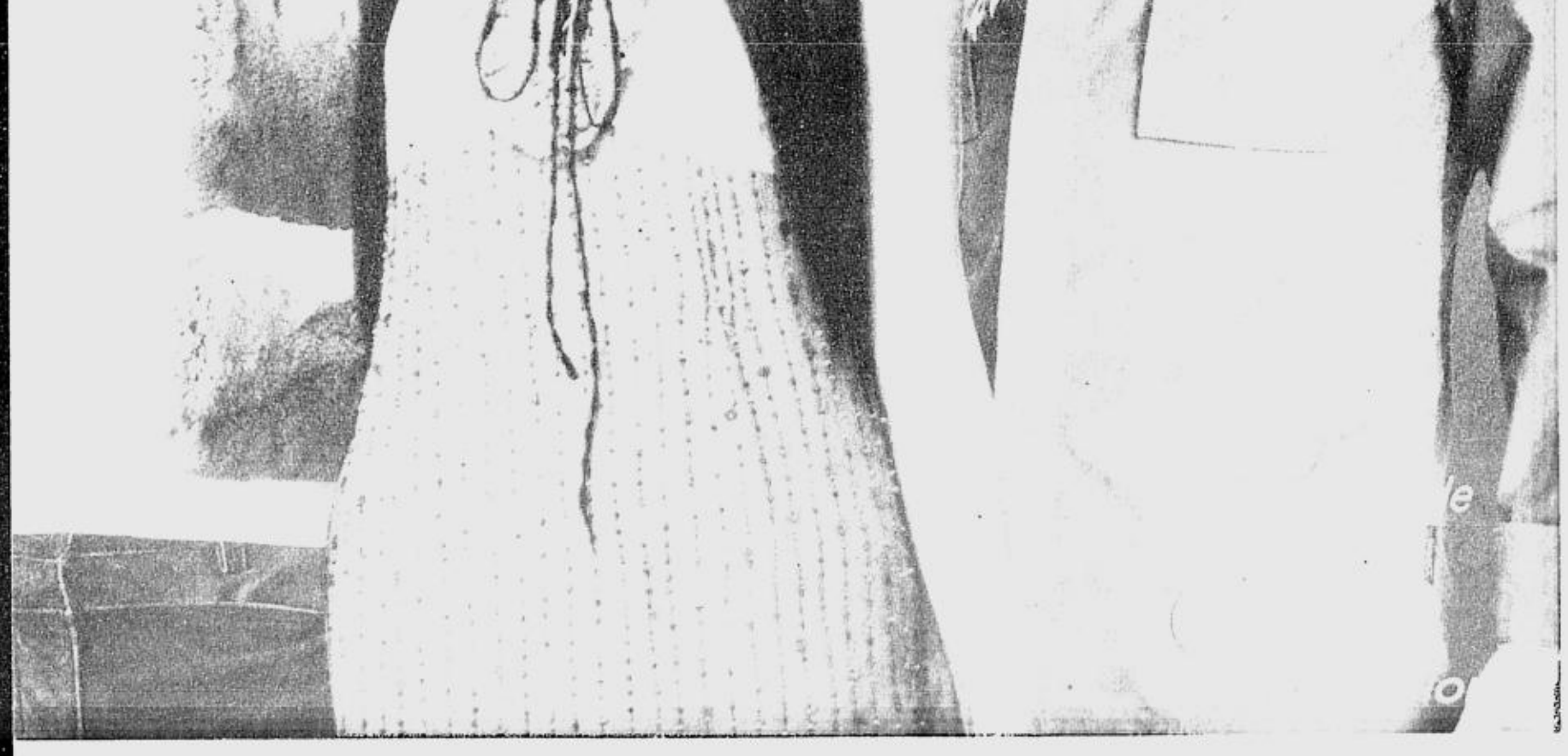
Ecleo also admitted that he had been using the cell phone for three months already.

Velasquez said he knew that Ecleo had asked permission from the previous jail warden, Chief Insp. Gledo Baroro, to allow him to bring musical instruments into the jail.

But Velasquez said Baroro had refused the request.

Interior Undersecretary for Peace and Order Marius Corpus yesterday ordered Velasquez to conduct an inquiry into why and how those items had been brought inside the jail.

Corpus also ordered Velasquez to find out if Ecleo's claim that he had bribed some jail officers was true.



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Season of Fireworks	N15	T15	L15
Lonely Winter	N16	T16	L16
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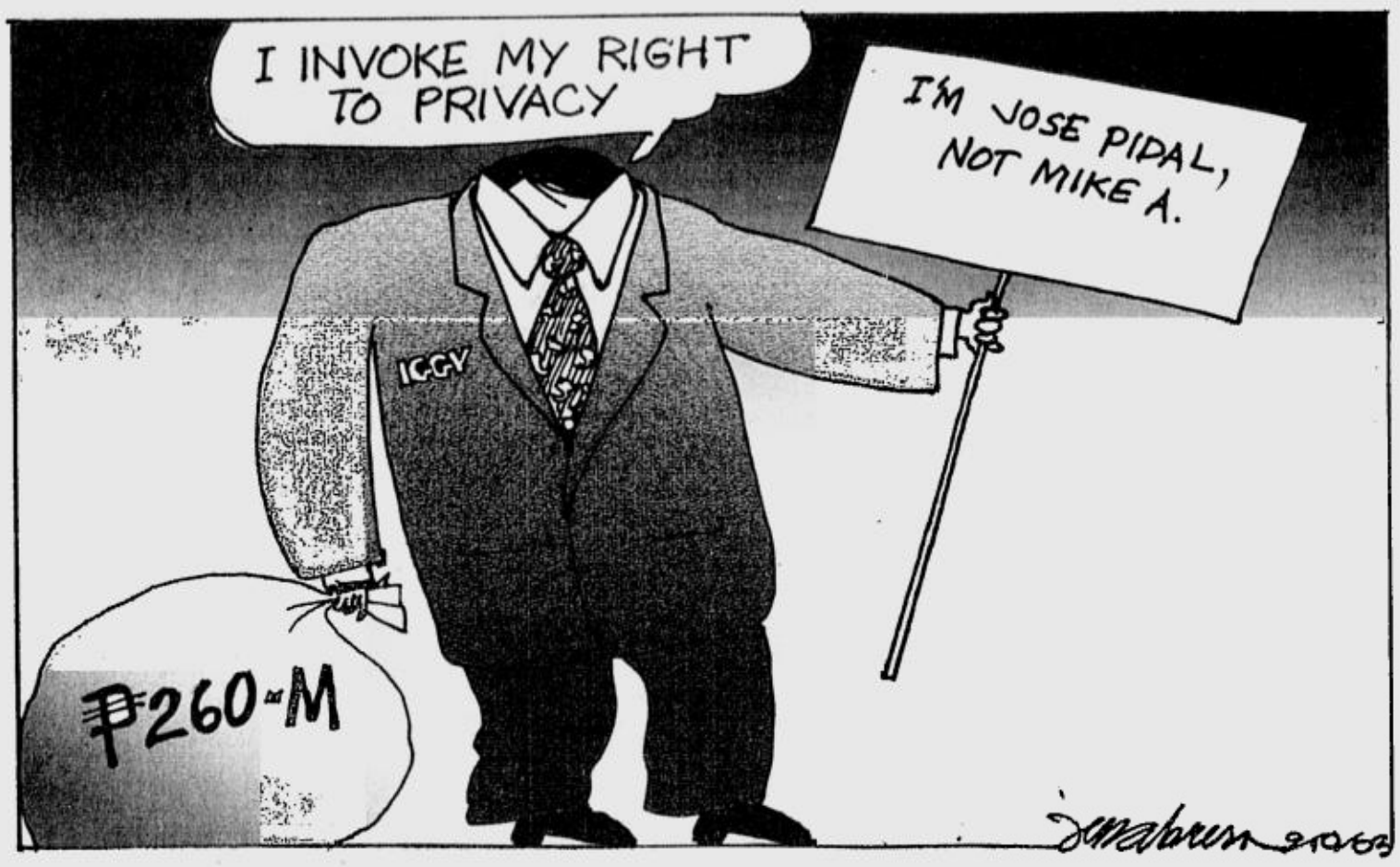

Suspicious silence

IGNACIO Arroyo blew his one big chance to defend his brother, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, against charges of money laundering and graft and corruption during the Senate hearing Monday. By invoking his "right to privacy" and refusing to answer the senators' questions, Ignacio only made both his brother and himself look guilty in the eyes of the public. In the court of public opinion, this was one occasion when someone condemned himself almost irredeemably by his silence.

EDITORIAL

Ignacio first came to public view when he claimed ownership of the Jose Pidal accounts, which, Sen. Panfilo Lacson had earlier charged, the First Gentleman owned and used to hide campaign funds and other funds from illegal sources. The PNP Crime Laboratory later said Ignacio's handwriting matched the Jose Pidal signature on a photocopy of a check Lacson had presented to the Senate. And during his appearance before the Senate investigating committees, the First Gentleman refused to answer questions concerning the Pidal accounts and other assets and told the senators to ask Ignacio instead. The implication was that Ignacio would be able to enlighten the public about such matters.

Nothing of the kind happened when Ignacio appeared at the Senate hearing. Although he confirmed that he owned the Pidal accounts, he refused to give details as to the sources of the funds deposited in those accounts as well as his other assets and financial interests or even how he opened those accounts. His standard response, repeated more than 20 times, was that such questions violated his "right to privacy."

Ignacio's refusal to answer questions left some senators frustrated and angry. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., perhaps momentarily forgetting that this was not an impeachment trial, accused him of "obstructing justice." Sen. Edgardo Angara said the younger Arroyo could not hide "under the cloak of privacy" since the issue was of public interest. The senators then decided to discuss among themselves whether Ignacio could be compelled to answer the questions he had evaded.

But while Ignacio seemed to have gotten away without a contempt citation from the Senate, he seems to have earned the contempt of many who followed the proceedings. His refusal to answer questions has been generally interpreted as a sign that he and his brother have some dirty secrets to hide. The attempt to clear his brother only put both of them under a heavier cloud of suspicion. As far as public perceptions go, Ignacio's performance was a disaster.

Which is rather ironic, since the two Senate hearings have not moved the First Gentleman any closer to jail. All that the senators have established conclusively so far is that Jose Pidal had an account with the Bank of the Philippine Islands-Family Bank, which has since been closed. After two hearings, they have not turned up any documents or elicited any information showing that either of the Arroyo brothers had accepted money from illegal sources and deposited them in some 12 bank accounts Lacson mentioned in his "exposés."

There is no guarantee that a third, fourth or nth hearing will prove wrongdoing on the part of the Arroyos. The banks have correctly refused to divulge information pertaining to the Pidal accounts, citing the Bank Secrecy Law. If the senators decide that Ignacio cannot take refuge behind his right to privacy, he can always fall back on his constitutional right against self-incrimination. Then the senators will find themselves in another dead end.

The only legal way to pry the suspected accounts open and find out the truth is through the courts. But Lacson doesn't seem to have the inclination to do so, and his colleagues are not about to tell him to do it. That would only bring down the curtain on a jolly good show.

Like father. . .

VICTORIOUS in Iraq in 1991, George Bush Senior lost the 1992 elections because of the economy...

In foreign policy as in state budget management, a lot separates the father and son. But Bush Junior, just like his dad, hasn't yet seemed to have succeeded in making the economy his best asset...

Unemployment has reached its highest in nine years. In three years, 2.7 million jobs have been lost in the United States...

FOREIGN COMMENT

In Iraq, the situation is worsening from day to day, and in August the number of American soldiers killed since the end of the conflict surpassed the 138 killed during the war. In Afghanistan, the Taliban are still active. Israelis and Palestinians are still on the verge of war...

To be reelected, he can do nothing but pray that the growth is still evident on the eve of November 2004, and, whatever happens, sort out his politics in Iraq.

Le Figaro (Paris)

Diesel subsidy vs clean fuel

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ASSOCIATIONS of bus and jeepney operators have asked the government to subsidize the price of diesel fuel that they use, and President Macapagal-Arroyo, in one more of her populist decisions, seems inclined to agree to it. She is thinking of raising the price of unleaded gasoline, which is already high, and using the increase to subsidize the price of diesel.

Mali yata ito. This is wrong. This is taking two steps backward in the fight against air pollution. Unleaded gasoline is clean fuel while diesel is dirty. The smoke belchers—which many buses, jeepneys and cargo trucks are—use diesel. We should encourage motorists to use unleaded gasoline instead of diesel. What's the Clean Air Act for? In fact, when the Clean Air Act was passed, there was a proposal to lower the price of unleaded gas and raise that of diesel to encourage the use of the cleaner fuel. But this was not implemented in consideration of the operators and drivers of public utility vehicles using diesel.

In fact, it was because diesel was cheap that buses and jeepneys converted to diesel engines and now these hordes of vehicles are spewing their dirty emissions and polluting the air we breathe. The air in Metro Manila is now among the most polluted in the world, next only to Mexico City, I think. But Mexico City has many factories whose smokestacks pollute its air; our air pollution comes mostly from the more deadly vehicle emissions which have plenty of carbon monoxide. It is colorless, odorless and tasteless but very poisonous.

Instead of moving backwards, we should go forward by encouraging motorists to shift to engines using unleaded gasoline: make this fuel cheaper. In fact, we should encourage a shift to engines using natural gas, which we have plenty of, and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) which is just a by-product in the processing of crude oil to gasoline. They are both clean fuels and other countries are already using them for vehicles. What's more, we would be saving plenty of foreign exchange that otherwise would be paid for crude oil imports because we are already producing our own natural gas in Palawan. To help the sugar and coconut industries which are in the doldrums, the Department of Energy should also encourage the development of fuel from sugar cane and coconut. The technology is already there; we can already produce these agriculture-based and renewable sources of fuel, but the government is not doing anything to encourage and popularize their use.

The justification for subsidizing the price of diesel is that it is used by the public transport sector and it would prevent an increase in passenger fares. And because vehicles using unleaded gasoline are owned by the "rich," they wouldn't mind paying more to subsidize the price of diesel. But that is only a stopgap measure and wouldn't address the long term and more serious problem of air pollution. That is appeasement.

Appeasement, in any form, is no good. It is like caving in to blackmail. There will be no end to it. The more you give, the more the blackmailer will demand. It was appeasement that led to World War II. When British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain gave in to appease Hitler and surrendered Sudetenland to Germany, it encouraged Hitler to invade Poland, France and other European countries, then cast covetous eyes on the rest of the world.

If we must subsidize public transportation, let's do it on the Light Rail Transit and the Metrorail which use the cleanest of all fuels: electricity. We have an oversupply of electricity, for which reason, strange as it may seem, our electric rates are very high. The consumers are made to pay for electricity that is not used. If the elevated rail lines were to use more power, the PPA (purchased power adjustment) would go down. We should encourage more people to use them.

But many commuters are turned off by the crush of passengers. So why not field more trains and coaches? The more of them, the more passengers, and the more income and profit for these light rail companies. The government should encourage the fielding of more trains and coaches. The completion of the other rail lines should be hastened.

The Department of Transportation and Communications should also wake up and hasten the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railroad, as well as the use of ferries in our rivers and seas. We are a maritime country and we should have done this a long time ago. In fact, the early Filipinos extensively used the rivers and canals for transportation until we were seduced by the American automobile manufacturers to shift to the automobile. But while the number of automobiles are increasing tremendously, our streets are not. Hence, the traffic jams.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has reserved two lanes on principal roads for buses. When private vehicles stray into them, the drivers are arrested; but when buses stray out of them—which buses do with impunity—they are not arrested. That is also appeasement. The answer to too many buses is not to give them more lanes but to reduce their numbers. Buses are already bumper-to-bumper on Edsa and each of them are only half-filled. If they were not earning enough despite the lack of passengers, the operators would have already pulled some of them off the road. That they have not, means that they are still profiting from them and therefore there is no need to raise fares.

Death in Davao

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DIDN'T particularly like Jun Pala. He wasn't just a spokesperson of the Alsa Masa, as the media reported. He was one of those who organized and unleashed vigilantes against suspected communists in the wake of Edsa. He was one of those who actively fomented hatred and strife in Davao, during the height of the anti-insurgency campaign in the late 1980s.

Doubtless, communist rule in the outskirts of Davao, which they overran in the twilight of martial law, was harsh. But the Alsa Masa, who ran around with the Caĝu, Nakasaka, and sundry head-hunting cultists, did not make things better. It simply jacked up the ante on terror tenfold.

But Pala was not gunned down the other day for those reasons. Indeed, he wasn't gunned down by the people he persecuted during that time. At least not by his own reckoning. He himself told people after the second attempt on his life—there were three in the last few years—he suspected the mayor of Davao himself, Rodrigo Duterte, of attempting it. Well, who better than the victim himself would know who the people gunning for him are?

I did not particularly like Jun Pala, but "like" has nothing to do with it. Pala was gunned down in the course of carrying out his journalistic duties. Specifically, for being a radio commentator, and specifically, again by his own reckoning, for being a vitriolic critic of Duterte, once a close friend and now bitter enemy. That makes his cause every inch my own. Whatever Pala's motives for attacking Duterte, I leave him to carry those to his grave. I'll grant he did it out of conviction—he was at least as passionate about it as he was about pushing communism to the sea. I may not agree with his views, but I respect his right to say them. No, I demand his right to say them.

Duterte, who likes to shoot his mouth off—among the many things he likes to shoot—may have just shot himself in the foot with a comment he made shortly after Pala accused him of masterminding the second attempt. "If I was the one who did it," he said, "he would have been dead already."

Well, Pala is dead. And those words take on an ominous ring. The killers certainly made sure their victim would be dead, pumping nine M-16 and .45 caliber bullets into him, mostly in the head and chest. And Pala certainly believed Duterte did it.

Unfortunately for Duterte, he doesn't just have the word of the dead man against him, he has the most motive. Of course, Pala had no end of enemies. The communists are one of them and they have been known to have long memories. But they have also been known to believe in exploiting the contradiction between their enemies. Pala was doing a magnificent job making Duterte miserable. Why would the communists, who never made an attempt on his life before, do it at the very time he was doing them an immense favor?

Many other politicians are Pala's enemies as well. And they are known as well to carry long arms, if not long memories. But Pala wasn't attacking them, or not primarily them. He was attacking Duterte. Why would they too want to remove him when he was doing them the supreme favor of eliminating—figuratively, it must be said—a rival?

Duterte says he welcomes an investigation on him and will cooperate in every way to make that possible. Oh, but he will, or should, be investigated, whether he welcomes it or not. If I recall right, he was the one who also said he would resign at once if it would be proven that the government and not the MILF—whom he rushed to accuse of the crime, without offering proof or motive—bombed parts of his favorite city. We may never prove who bombed Davao City—the PNP will always find Seven Points of Divergence between acts of terrorism and the hand of government—but we may always prove who killed Jun Pala.

The trick lies in bringing unflinching national attention to bear on his murder. I've been cajoling the national media organizations to do this for some time now. Forget the national journalists who are fairly safe in Metro Manila. Give the medals, or the proper burial, to the provincial journalists who must live in fear for their lives when they are true to their calling.

The investigation can't be local, or left to the PNP alone. Duterte, along with Reyes, Golez, Pichay, Akbar, is one of GMA's henchmen in her fight to defend this country's, well, she calls it democracy. I myself am urging a congressional investigation. The situation warrants it. The number of provincial journalists killed each year in this country has become alarming—six this year, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. Since 1986, more than 40 Filipino journalists have died so, a record not far behind Colombia.

That is intolerable. None of the killers have been brought to justice. I am very glad our own newspaper carried for several months the picture of Guillermo Wapile, the cop suspected of gunning down Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio, a year and a half ago. Though that seems to have done little to bring the ass hole to justice. He continues to elude the police to this day, for reasons only the police can explain.

A congressional inquiry is in order. One that demands the active involvement of all of media. I don't particularly care that Pala was a rabble rouser and an anti-communist. I figure Bertolt Brecht's famous parable about Nazi Germany applies as much to anti-communists as to communists. First, they took my Jewish neighbor, but I did not complain because he was a Jew. Then they took my communist neighbor, but I did not complain because he was a communist. And finally they took me, and by then I could no longer complain.

You don't complain about this, the next corpse could be yours.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

'Thaksinomics'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE PRIME minister of Thailand, Thaksin Shinawatra, gave President Macapagal-Arroyo and Filipino businessmen some lessons on how Thailand saved the economy from devastation in the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

President Macapagal had hoped that Thaksin, in his visit to the Philippines last Monday and Tuesday, would unveil a formula for Thailand's post-1997 economic success, which she has reduced into a catchword, "Thaksinomics." But this does not quite capture the essence of Thailand's impressive economic turnaround.

The President has cited two elements she has in common with Thaksin—both launched a war against illegal drugs. But the outcomes of their campaigns are quite different—Thaksin's is successful, but after leaving a high toll of more than 1,200 dead in the wake of a police crackdown, raising in turn concerns over extra-judicial killing. Thaksin has conceded that the police might have made some "mistakes," but he has brushed aside criticism on human rights violations, saying that "The government is firm in its policy. Whoever wants to criticize, let them criticize."

The campaign is the upshot of Thaksin's promise to rid Thailand of the scourge of drugs. But the Thai press has pointed out that the crackdown has not stopped the flow of drug pills from Burma.

If President Macapagal is looking for a similarity between Thaksin's crackdown and her campaign, hers has hardly taken off beyond noisy rhetoric. The President does not have the stomach and toughness of Thaksin, a former police colonel who drove the police to deliver results in terms of number of arrests made. President Macapagal cannot even press the Philippine National Police to show results.

The crackdown on illegal drugs was only one of the three fronts where Thaksin declared war upon taking office two years ago—the others were the war on hunger and on corruption. The results of the war on hunger had strongly populist accent, winning him a high popularity rating among the Thai people. A recent poll shows that more than 70 percent of Thais are happy with his handling of the economy. This goes to show that the economy is the key to an effective government, and that with economic success, a government can cancel out criticism on controversial policies.

Thailand was severely hit by the 1997 crisis, while the Philippines was unscathed, and yet the former rebounded more strongly than the Philippines. Thailand has become so prosperous that Thaksin, in his visit, donated four aircraft to the Philippine government.

The Thai economy posted a 5.3-percent Gross Domestic Product growth in 2002, outstripping the Philippines'. This year, the Thai economy is expected to expand by 5 percent, while the Philippines is struggling to achieve a 4-percent growth.

The formula for Thailand's growth is a policy centered on the grass roots, with the strategy of boosting domestic spending power and homegrown enterprises. This strategy stands on its head the conventional Asian accent prior to the 1997 crisis: strong exports and direct foreign investments, a strategy which he said was unbalanced because it enriched only a few at the expense of the many.

"In the past," he said, "the conventional economic development of many countries, including Thailand, was to focus on strengthening the direct foreign investment and export-led sector of the economy." Such strategy entailed investing more capital in urban areas, he said.

In the effort to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, Thaksin initiated a number of programs, for which the label "populist" is hardly accurate. Among other things, he initiated a three-year debt suspension scheme for farmers, set up a village fund to spur economic activities in the villages, gave tax incentives for new businesses and launched a one-million housing program for the poor. The village fund was backed by micro-credit facility that funneled one million baht ($24,000) to each village as start-up capital to stimulate productive activity.

To empower the grass roots, the government needs to give them a complete cycle of assistance and support ranging from credit lending, human resource development and technical assistance for product development. These policies and programs are set in the context of a political environment which, as described by Thaksin, was founded on stability and ensured that the poor were given a chance to share in economic success.

Thaksinomics cannot be replicated in the Philippines. Its preconditions do not exist here. The environment of political stability has made Thailand resilient and enabled that country to rebound from economic crisis. In contrast, the Philippines has been rocked since the 1980s by a series of political turbulence. From the late 1970s, Thailand has hardly been shaken by coups, although before that decade, it went through a cycle of regime changes through coups. It was not until the 1980s, in which the Philippines went through a period of coups, that the Thai parliamentary democracy began to consolidate itself, taking a stable course.

In his war on corruption, Thaksin seems to have overcome a credibility problem against the background that he won an election in the thick of charges over his accumulation of wealth. Thaksin, a former police officer who became a businessman, is one of the wealthiest persons in Thailand and is head of a telecommunications company.

President Macapagal cannot derive comfort from Thaksin's advice that "A politician always thinks about the next election, while a statesman always thinks of the next generation. If you think of the next generation, then you can do a lot of things."

'Embering'

HIGH BLOOD

Mely Cruz-Roa

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

ON APRIL 15, 1994, I lost my husband, Doy, and my whole world fell apart. I was devastation personified. But I had to move on with my life and accept a life without him. I could not forever dwell on those 42 precious years of life with my Baba (Baba is a term of endearment in the Bicol Region). But letting go was not easy. It needed a lot of emptying on my part—mentally, emotionally, and physically. Memories had to be set aside, and so with many things, all reminders that once upon a time there was this very special guy in my life.

Since then, many Aprils and anniversaries have come and gone. On one such anniversary, as I was leaving for church, Aling Binyang, the woman vendor at the corner newsstand, approached me, smiling, *"Hindi ba ho anibersaryo na naman ni doktor?"* I smiled back, happy though curious how she remembered. Without my asking, she explained that when the tall cherry tree near our gate would be in full bloom, littering our garden and her newsstand with its white blossoms, she would know and remember, for Doy was loved much by his family and friends and the many whose lives he touched.

When my friend, Eggie, and I suffered some kind of a stroke, we compared notes as to how we felt, what triggered it, etc. The exchange led to a discussion of what we were doing at that time. Eggie told me that she was fixing all her papers and properties, disposing of and bequeathing her valuables, etc. How I laughed! Though I do not own as many properties and valuables, I was doing practically the same things but for another reason. With our long-time, ever dear and loyal househelp Daisy back to her Creator, my children would not allow me to stay alone in our house at Banawe. It was too far for them to reach me if I needed help. And since I left the house in shambles when I got sick, many things needed fixing and letting go. I was not only emptying a house, but a castle of memories.

And this, according to Eggie, a journalist of international renown and founder of the INQUIRER, is what we call "embering," a word coined after the end months of the year—September, October, November, December. And who am I to disagree? The word is new to me with a nice curious ring to it. And because it is not found in any of my dictionaries, it is quite intriguing.

Embering can be a long tedious process. I started with the bulky furniture in our sala. I was happy to donate my old Yamaha organ to a poor neglected church in the outskirts of Filinvest II where my friend Menchu gave free computer classes to the indigent. The organ arrived just in time to surprise the parishioners with its heavenly music for their Easter Sunday celebration. And with all the latest information now accessible through the Internet, I sent some of my encyclopedias, which may soon become obsolete, to a new home in the same parish center for the use of the marginalized, especially students waiting for their turn at the computers.

Then followed the emptying of bookshelves of favorite books, letters and photographs, leafing through favorite pages, rereading long kept letters, and reminiscing through faded photographs. Each one is a most enjoyable but definitely never-ending task, every piece, a stroll down memory lane. Once you start, you never know when to stop. One realizes how we love to collect things, only to discover later that we never really needed them. Still, it is very hard to part with them.

Next came the clothes. Especially for those like me, whose weight swung from very, very thin to very, very fat and vice-versa, there could be many. I once heard a priest say that if your clothes have been hanging in your closet unused for a year or so, they are no longer yours. How right he was!

And I did discover some very good finds from among my *ukay-ukay*. Most appreciated was a two-piece cream sleeveless outfit. But since my waistline had expanded so generously, the mid-section of the top could no longer be closed, prompting the young ones to think I was trying hard to be up-to-date with my unintended peek-a-boo around the navel. (*Kulang na lang magpa-*tattoo *ako so paligid nito, at magpa-*body pierce *ng diamante sa pusod.*) And since RTWs are now the fashion, I gave away all my clothing materials to the delight of my sisters in HOLD (Handmaids of the Lord), to whom they meant new dresses for a forthcoming international conference.

Such are the spoils of embering—the pleasure it gives others and the greater pleasure that is ours.

While physical embering may be great, the more important and more difficult is spiritual embering, i.e.: looking into our hearts and souls and emptying ourselves of the many hurts, grievances and resentments, long harbored and nurtured, forgiven but not really forgotten; and making amends to people we had hurt, ignored, failed to help, or not spoken to in years.

Through God's amazing grace, both Eggie and I have been blessed with warning signals before the final curtain. Perhaps, the Good Lord wants us to stay awhile, to put our busy lives on hold, to forget everything else, and just stay close to the Lord, preparing for that final homecoming—loving and serving Him to whatever limited capacities we may still have, praising and thanking Him, singing "Til the end of our days O Lord let us love and serve You. Sing Your praise, give You thanks, all our days."

Mely Cruz-Roa is launching her book, "Embering—Essays on Loving and Living" at Club Filipino on Sept. 11, her birthday. She will be 78 years old.

A more sober anniversary

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS year's observance of the 9/11 "event," the destruction of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon, will be marked by much simpler and more low-key ceremonies, writes Edmund Silvestre, a reporter for the New York-based Filipino Reporter.

In case any of you readers would like to offer a prayer for all the Filipinos who died in the Twin Towers attack, Edmund offers this list: Grace Alegre Cua, Jayceryll De Chavez, Judy S. Fernandez, Maria T. Santillan, Manuel Lopez, Larry Sumaya, David Marc Sullins, Carl Allen Peralta, Benilda Pascua Domingo, Arnold Lim, Hector Tamayo, Cynthia Motus-Wilson, Ramon Grijalvo, Marlyn Bautista, Cesar Alviar, Rufino Flores Santos, Cecille Caguicla and Frederick Kuo Jr.

Edmund could not provide the names of any Filipinos who died aboard the aircraft that smashed into the towers or into the Pentagon, but I hope you include them in your remembrances as well.

During the memorial rites tomorrow, two Filipinos will be among the 100 pairs of children who will read the names of the 9/11 victims, writes Edmund. They are Nicole Alegre Cua, 15, and her brother Patrick, 11.

They are the children of Grace Alegre Cua who was working as an accountant at Mitsui Trust and Banking Co. Grace was on the 83rd floor of the WTC Tower 2, perishing along with nearly 3,000 other workers in the two buildings.

Each child will read approximately 14 names in ceremonies that will be "far more modest and self-contained than last year, with the families of the victims, rather than politicians, playing the central role."

* * *

AS the children read the names of the victims, family members will descend into "Ground Zero" by 8:30 a.m. (about 8:30 p.m. here). At 8:46 a.m., there will be a moment of silence to observe the moment the first jetliner struck the north tower.

A minute later, family members will descend through a ramp to the lowest level, where they can lay flowers. There will be three more moments of silence in observance of the instances when the second plane struck and when the towers collapsed.

"Like other children who lost a parent at 9/11, Nicole said the sudden death of her mother two years ago remains painful," Edmund writes. He quotes Nicole as saying: "My dad (Ed), brother and I, we still cry. That's why I'm happy to do this (read names of 9/11 victims) because it makes me feel special that I can represent my mom. I feel that when I read her name, it will make me feel that I'm dedicating something to her."

Edmund continues:

"Nicole, a sophomore (in high school), said she tries to ease the pain simply by thinking of the happy times when her mom was still around. 'I would think of how she'd always make us smile and laugh,' Nicole said. 'I think of the funny times that we'd had and at what she would do to make us feel better.'

"Nicole's father, Ed, said the pain becomes unbearable every time the anniversary comes. 'Just when you thought the pain is getting less, it all comes back because of the anniversary,'" said Ed, a native of Infanta, Quezon. 'It's all new again.'

"Asked how he handles the pain, he replied: 'I get myself busy. My kids and I pray the Rosary every night and I keep on telling them to keep their faith in God and be strong for their mom.'"

* * *

"I AM 68 years old but still *kuntatan*," Mayor Coring Acosta told the more than 200 women gathered in Cagayan de Oro last Saturday for the Abanse! Pinay Northern Mindanao Assembly.

The women laughed uproariously at the mayor's use of the Visayan word for "flirtatious," or "frisky," referring not so much to her behavior (or was she?), but to her restless nature, forever in search of ever more and ever newer challenges.

I hadn't met the mayor before last weekend, but I had heard so much about her, even while she was still a congresswoman for the first district of Bukidnon. I knew her son Neric, the current congressman, much better. But upon meeting her, I immediately recognized where Neric, dubbed by Newsbreak as the "favorite of the country's NGOs," got his idealism, restless energy and leadership.

* * *

AS MAYOR Acosta told the women, she was a college professor when she decided to try her hand at politics. She first ran and won as a councilor in Manolo Fortich and then became mayor. This was followed by three terms as a congresswoman, during which, she confesses, she felt restless and began looking for other ways to help her constituents.

This was when she first heard about microcredit and the successful experiment in lending to poor women through social organization that was the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. She sent her staff, led by her sister Nemia, to Bangladesh where they trained in the Grameen methodology. Upon their return, they replicated the Grameen experience through Project Bulig or Barangay Unified Investment through Grameen.

I have recounted the "success stories" of the women of Project Bulig in the two previous columns, but organizing a "Grameen type" program requires a huge commitment in time, resources and personnel. As Nemia walked me through their offices, I couldn't help noting the bank of computers, the shelves crammed with records and the number of staff needed just to keep track of the members' credit performance.

But then, Mayor Acosta is not one to give up easily. At the end of her third congressional term, she ran for mayor of Manolo Fortich but lost. "I understood why," she says. "After all, as a congresswoman, I wasn't able to spend as much time with local voters."

Rebuffed by her town mates, she didn't turn bitter or disillusioned, but worked on improving the lot of the womenfolk. It was the women, she believes, who helped make her mayor in the next elections.

Hair care, language, etc. in pre-colonial Philippines

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE of the problems with early Spanish accounts of the Philippines and the Filipinos is the absence of illustrations. One manuscript on Magellan's voyage by Antonio Pigafetta in Yale University has some colored maps, but no pictures of people. While the mind is left free to imagine, it would have been easier for historians and people reading history if Pigafetta or someone on board the ship made a line drawing of Lapu-lapu or a sketch of the battle in Mactan in 1521. Many of my students draw and re-draw the fabled penis implements described by puritanical Spanish chroniclers and try to reconcile their drawings, and their imagination with the text. Some came across a drawing on the margin of the Boxer Codex that is supposed to be this implement, yet remain far off the mark.

Early accounts about the Philippines are studied not just by historians but by anthropologists because they are full of ethnographic information that not only tell us how people lived but also give us clues to why we act in certain ways.

For example, the accounts are full of many admiring descriptions of Filipino hair. One noted that while Westerners have hair that are quick to thinning and heads that go easily bald, the Filipinos they encountered sported full heads of hair, shiny, straight and jet black. It is said the Filipinos then used *gugo* and other substances to care for their hair. This may be just an insignificant footnote to most people. But when you see all the hair-straightening being done in malls and beauty parlors around the country today, as well as the dizzying array of shampoos, conditioners and hair products, you might wonder how much of our pre-colonial habits we have unknowingly kept to this day.

Perhaps one of the aspects overlooked in consumer research these days is the historical perspective—what made Filipinos in the 16th-century behave in the way they did then? Are these the same things that make 21st Filipinos tick?

Other early accounts note that when the Spaniards talked to the Pinoy, he or she would start scratching, even if there was no visible reason to do so, thus showing his uneasiness. Even today, scratching the head is normal for Filipinos when accosted by the police or asked a question that is hard to answer. Is this universal or something distinctly Filipino, like pointing at objects with the lips, or acknowledging people by the raising of the eyebrows?

Also, when passing between two people conversing or in front of someone watching the television—a Filipino bends the body and puts out the hand as if parting some imaginary barrier. This, I think, is really Pinoy and can be traced all the way to many centuries back.

Then there are always the words that show how much our languages have developed or remained the same. Pigafetta compiled some samplings—presumably with help from Enrique, the slave Magellan picked up in Malacca—which he described as "words of those heathen people." The numbers despite the spelling sound familiar: one/*uzza*, two/*dua*, three/*tolo*, four/*upat*, five/*lima*, six/*onom*, seven/*pitto*, eight/*gualu*, nine/*ciam*, and ten/*polo*.

Reading these words in the compilations of Pigafetta and other early chroniclers often makes me wonder whether I would be understood if I were sent 500 years back speaking in modern Pilipino. The body parts were called as follows: face/*guay*, eyelids/*pilac*, eyebrows/*chilei*, eye/*matta*, nose/*ilon*, jaws/*apin*, lips/*olol*, mouth/*baba* teeth/*nipin*, gums/*leghex*, tongue/*dilla*, ears/*delengan*, spine/*licud*, breast/*dughan*, elbow/*sico*, hand/*camat*, palm of the hand/*palan*, finger/*dudlo*, fingernail/*coco*, navel/*pusut*, penis/*utin*, testicles/*boto*, vagina/*billat*, buttocks/*samput*, thigh/*paha*.

Other words in the compilations: gold/*balaoan*, silver/*pilla*, rice/*bnughax baras*, salt/*acin*, wine/*tuba nio nipa*, hog/*babui*, goat/*candin*, chicken/*humas*, eggs/*silog* smoke/*assu*, and a certain rice cake/*tinapai*.

Nationalist history teaches us that we lost all our pre-colonial written literature and history because these were considered the "work of the devil" by the friars who systematically destroyed them. Nothing can be farther from the truth: many of the early chroniclers wrote in the pre-Spanish syllabary or *baybayin*, a script which is often mistakenly called *alibata* today.

As a matter of fact, the first book printed in the Philippines, the 1593 "Doctrina Cristiana" was written in both the Roman alphabet and Philippine script. Basic Catholic prayers were also in Spanish and in Tagalog, the latter written in Roman alphabet and *baybayin*. Going over the "Doctrina" made me teach myself to read and write *baybayin*. An early Tagalog translation of the *Ave Maria* by the Jesuit Pedro Chirino and commented on by Colin in the early 17th-century gives us a feel of the language and the times. It reads:

"Aba Guingoong Maria matoua ca na. Napopono ca nang gracia. Ang Panginoong Dios na saiyo. Bucor cang pinagpala sa babaying lahat pinagpala naman ang Yyong Anac si Jesus. Santa Mariang Yna nang Dios Ypanalangin mo caming macasalanan ñgayon at cum mamamatay cami, Amen Jesus."

We remain very much like Filipinos of centuries ago and if we acknowledge our past we may perhaps know ourselves better.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

THEY SAID

Lessons of history

"Let us not allow history to condemn us to repeat its bitter lessons."

—Partido ng Manggagawa national chair Renato Magtubo on calls for snap elections

Unusual agenda

"His formula of ousting GMA (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) and installing (Vice President Teofisto) Guingona as successor smacks of constitutionalism that is unheard of for a supposed communist like him."

—Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino spokesperson Patricio Ramirez on Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal

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Comelec order discriminatory

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. has a lot of explaining to do regarding an order he issued withholding election registration to "new registrants residing in squatter areas."

The order, which he issued "verbally" to local Comelec registrars in Metro Manila, is unconstitutional, illegal and plain discriminatory. It effectively disenfranchises millions of urban poor dwellers in Metro Manila. Denying "squatters" registration would further deprive them of their remaining rights already diminished as a consequence of their social status.

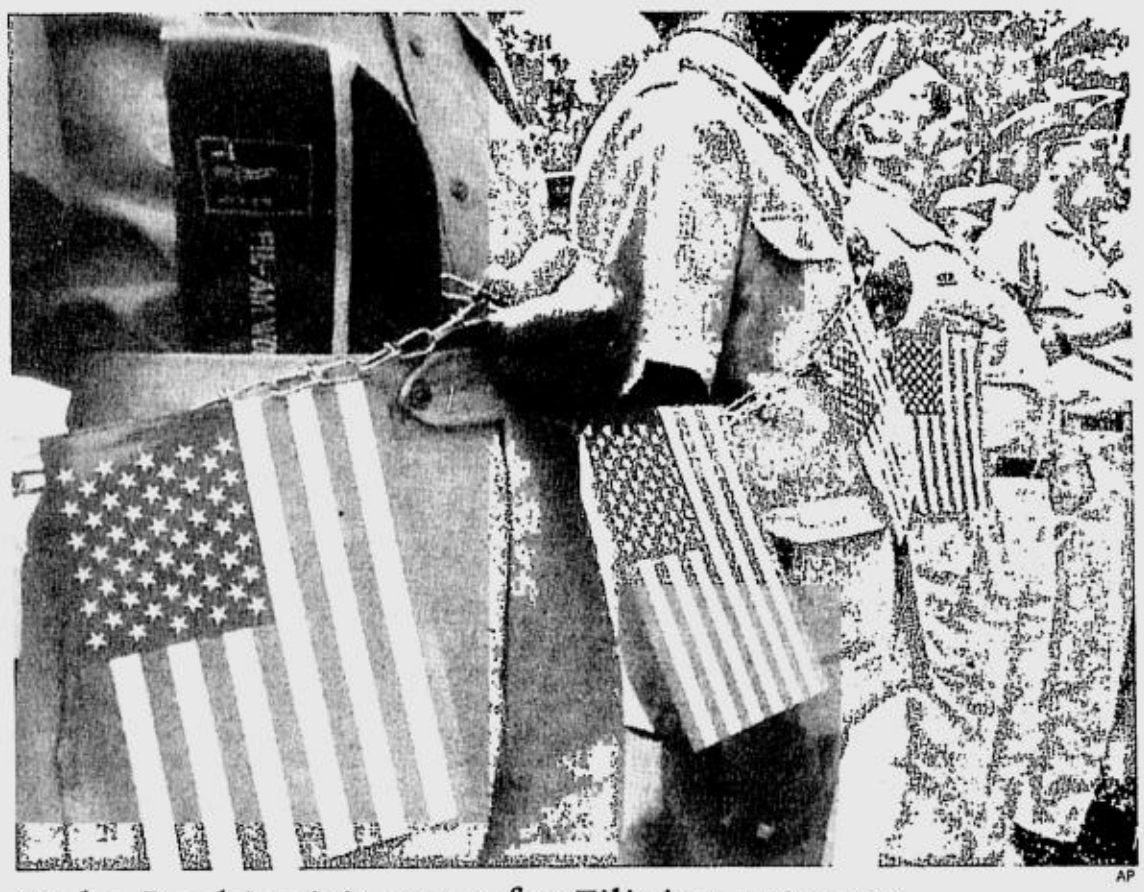
The order's expressed intent to weed out so-called flying voters is not enough justification. The Comelec has sufficient measures already at its disposal to do just that. Furthermore, no existing law expressly states that ownership of domicile is required to enable an individual to register as a voter. Even criminal suspects are barred from voting only after they have been convicted of a crime. Squatters are not criminals nor is being poor a crime.

Instead of denying squatters' registration, the Comelec should faithfully implement the minimum registration requirements: 18 years in age and above, Filipino citizen for at least one year, and six months' residence in the area the individual wishes to vote.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Abalos needs to clarify the order in writing and provide a legal justification for the policy. Otherwise, he should rescind this order that denies individuals their universal right of suffrage because they are poor.

—NATHANAEL SANTIAGO, councilor, Caloocan City and secretary general, Bayan Muna, 28 Magiting St. Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City



AP

Need to be realistic about English

ALLAN Bernardo's strong opinion about Rina Jimenez-David's "Out of comfort zone" column which stressed the use of Filipino as the medium of instruction in schools should be reconsidered. While his reason in considering the "experiences and real situations of the majority of the people whose lives and realities are vastly different from those who make and create plans and decisions" is very acceptable and even truthful, Bernardo must also consider the eventual global effects of continuing with the use of our native language as the medium of instruction. He needs to realize that global situations and needs are fast evolving and changing. The desire of a majority of our people to live or work abroad, particularly in western countries, is a common reality.

These factors must be considered in emphasizing the importance of English in the formative learning years of our youth. Bernardo must travel to the States, particularly to California where many Filipinos reside, for him to observe how inarticulate and inept a lot of them are in expressing themselves in English, which is a disadvantage for them. He also needs to realize how important the mastery of English is for any particular ethnic group, particularly in Third World countries, to attract international investors. India, whose people are very articulate and proficient in the English language, has always been the primary focus and choice of most international and multinational investors. The Indian people enjoy international respect which is very evident here in the States. This is the very reason why our neighboring Asian nations have shifted their focus in language use.

Nationalism and patriotism should not be pegged on the use of any language. I now breathe, think and speak in English (except when I'm with my Filipino friends and relatives) every day of my life after I leave my apartment to go to work. But my soul and my heart will always remain a true Filipina. We not only face the reality outside our own backyard. We should also be more practical.

Let us depart from our sentimentality and brand of nationalism and patriotism if these become obstacles to the advancement of our position as a people and nation in the global environment.

—ESPERANZA LIMCAUCO, La Verne, California, USA

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

More judicious coverage of lifestyle checks

WE agree with and appreciate your editorial last Aug. 24, 2003, where you pointed out that publishing the results of the lifestyle check before thoroughly establishing that there is a case of unexplained wealth does a grave injustice to those who are guiltless.

Having worked closely with Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, we know him to be an honest and diligent government official who is doing his best to rid the Bureau of Customs of corruption. It is unfair to Bernardo that he be smeared by the "broad brush" that the Transparency Group is wielding.

At the same time we urge media to do their part to prevent such injustice from happening by refusing to publish news about people being accused of wrongdoing even before charges are filed in court. As you said in your editorial, "If charges have been filed against an official, using evidence gathered from a lifestyle check, then that official becomes a legitimate subject of news stories. But why disclose a list of millionaire officials who may or may not be corrupt, who may or may not have to explain their relative wealth, who may or may not be charged in court?"

This principle should apply to all no matter what crime they are accused of, no matter what station they occupy in life. It is something the media can do to uphold justice and decency.

—MENELEO J. CARLOS JR., chair, Federation of Philippine Industries Inc., 308 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave Ext., Makati City

Make Bush's visit count for Filipino veterans

MANY commentaries and analyses of the problems affecting Filipino-American veterans of World War II have been written. Still, the Fil-Am veteran has yet to receive the compensation due him for services rendered during the said war.

The Rescission Act of 1946 was a big blow against the Fil-Am veteran. We note, however, that the Filipino Equity Bill of Rights, introduced during the last Congress, has gotten lost in the legislative mill.

As one of the old and ailing Fil-Am veterans still living, may I request President Macapagal-Arroyo to redouble her efforts toward convincing US President George W. Bush to persuade his Republican Congress to enact into law the Filipino Equity Bill of Rights which has been reintroduced in Congress.

If the Japanese *nisei* in the United States who were rounded up and incarcerated in early 1942 could be awarded after the war $20,000 each for their sufferings, should the Fil-Am veteran who fought with the Americans be considered unworthy of just compensation?

—GENARO I. ARRIBE, 10 Malaya St., Barangay Plainview, Mandaluyong City

Accident-prone Mariveles road

LAST July 17, 2003, a trailer truck loaded with 1,000 bags of cement crashed into our house, causing serious damage and injury. This was the eighth vehicular accident in our area since the Mariveles By-Pass Road was opened to motorists. This portion of the road is obviously accident prone because of its very sharp-curve descending design.

For this reason, I am appealing to the local government officials concerned and to Rep. Enrique Garcia to please relocate a portion of the Mariveles By-Pass Road to the adjacent vacant government land to prevent more (if not worse) accidents.

—CHARLES M. RAMONES, 141 Osmeña St., Barangay Baseco, Mariveles, Bataan

Moratorium on non-working holidays

SENATE President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. have filed SB No. 2636 declaring the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. a national hero and making Aug. 21, the day of his assassination 20 years ago, a special non-working holiday.

Because of our poor economic conditions at this time, it is not advisable to add another special non-working holiday to our present two special holidays (Nov. 1 and Dec. 31) declared in 1987 by President Corazon Aquino through EO No. 203. Why not reduce instead the number of legal and special holidays?

Because we have so many legal and special holidays, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank had suggested to abolish some. That is why the Fall of Bataan and Corregidor were consolidated into one, and the Fil-Am Friendship Day on July 4 was scrapped.

Of course, Aquino deserves a place in our history. Aug. 21 may be declared only a working national holiday so as not to affect the economy. Marikina resident Paul R. Mortel and Rep. Del R. de Guzman are in favor of a six-year moratorium on the holding of non-working legal and special holidays to remedy the sagging economy.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN, 92 Paraiso St., Parang, Marikina City

Determining the source of high arsenic levels

IN CONNECTION with the article entitled "Arsenic poisoning confirmed" published on Page A-16 of the INQUIRER's Aug. 31 issue, we wish to provide additional relevant information for your readers.

Apparently, the article was based on the arsenic study conducted by the Department of Health and presented to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local government units, non-government organizations and the PNOC Energy Development Corp. last Aug. 25. During the DOH presentation, it was resolved that since the study was not able to pinpoint the source of the arsenic, another study shall be conducted jointly by the DOH, DENR and stakeholders. All the data of the agencies for the past 10 years shall be reviewed to aid in developing the terms of reference for the study, including the introduction of safeguards to protect communities that may be affected if indeed such hazards exist.

In 1993, several studies were already conducted to determine the source of arsenic contamination in the area. Specifically, the possibility that the geothermal plant is a source of the arsenic contamination has already been investigated by the following bodies:

(a) The DENR on Aug. 25, 1993.

(b) The multi-sectoral group (DENR/DOH/local NGO task force Sandawa) on Sept. 30, 1993.

(c) The House Committee on Ecology together with an NGO expert (Professor Hironaka), DENR, DOH and the local NGO on Aug. 3-5,1993.

The House inquiry found that the river stations with elevated arsenic concentrations coincide with areas receiving inputs from 14 natural hot springs. Even rivers around Mt. Apo located 10-20 kilometers from the geothermal plant which have no geothermal development were found containing elevated arsenic concentrations. In 1994, the DOH team conducted an experiment to determine the pathway of contamination. They concluded that the most probable sources of contamination are residence soil and farm soil. They recommended that cultural practices be inventoried to keep the community safe from the source of contamination.

The result of the House inquiry was also validated in 1995 by Dr. Jenny Webster, a noted environmental chemist from New Zealand. She concluded that while the upper reaches of the rivers as well as drinking local water springs contained very low arsenic concentrations, this was elevated in the lower reaches of the river by input of natural hot springs. Her study was published in 1998 in "Geothermics" (International Journal of Geothermal Research and Applications).

—SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL, chair and president/CEO, PNOC Energy Development Corp., Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

The human link through all ages and generations

ALL of us started our life's journey as embryos. Once conceived, the child is linked and united to the mother only by the umbilical cord, which transmits the necessities of bodily functions from mother to child and child to mother.

At birth, the living proof of our ancestral lineage can be found in our own bodies through the umbilical cord. Cut at birth, it leaves an indelible imprint, called the navel or belly button, on all of humans.

Through continual parental sexual union, the umbilical cord unites us in an unbroken link, from mother to child, through child to grandchild, from grandchild to great-grandchild, and so on into the future in ever increasing numbers. In reverse, it proves ancestry and lineage in the distant past from one generation to another, over time, centuries and millennia in ever decreasing numbers, to eventually our ancestral parents Adam and Eve, as described in the Book of Genesis.

This phenomenon is unmistakable. It is the seal of God's creation of our personal humanity as a child of God and links us to His spiritual domain and His plan of salvation. Scientists may painstakingly unravel the mysteries of creation, but that does not make them their author. On the contrary, they are His subjects and are accountable to Him for their actions.

Just think about it.

—GEORGE VERSTRAETE Ste 102-375 Goulet St., Winnipeg, MB R2H3C7, Canada

Bad 'feng shui'

IF one comes from the Luneta going toward the Cultural Center of the Philippines, you will observe the following on one's right side:

1. A cannon mounted near the gate of the Philippine Navy compound is aimed at one of the buildings of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

2. As one nears the CCP, one can see a big Army tank with its cannon directed at the other building of the Bangko Sentral.

These two fixtures, the cannon and the tank, are military hardware aimed at the Bangko Sentral. Elements of the military have figured prominently in the still ongoing unsettled state of our economy and our society. And now, even the Bangko Sentral governor faces suspension.

Can this be a clear case of bad *feng shui*?

—REMIGIO A. CHENG, 6 Hemady St., Sta. Cecilia Subd., Pamplona, Las Piñas

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Solon says Cha-cha backed by US, EU

BAGUIO CITY—The advocacy for constitutional change is being pushed by the United States and the European Union which want access to the bureaucracy by 2004 that would be guided by "a less protectionist" Constitution, according to an administration lawmaker.

"We should never change our Constitution in exchange for a few dollars (these countries) will be investing," said Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs.

Lozada spoke on Tuesday in a University of the Philippines Baguio forum on the 5th World Trade Organization ministerial conference that is ongoing in Cancun, Mexico.

The Ibon Foundation supported Lozada's claims. Rhea de los Santos-Padilla, chief of Ibon's media bureau, told the same forum that both the United States and Europe have been disturbed by increasing reports of corruption in the Macapagal administration.

She said for both countries to transact business in the Philippines, scandals like the Jose Pidal accounts would have to be addressed soon because these countries prefer a business environment that is hewn more closely to their own standards. "Europe has always wanted the Philippines to amend the Constitution because it is too protectionist," Padilla said.

One of such "protectionist" provisions is a section guaranteeing national sovereignty over its territorial resources and the section guaranteeing indigenous Filipinos control over their ancestral domain, according to Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments. But Domogan said the House "was never influenced by any agency when it conceived of the proposed charter amendments."

"Personally, I am not completely convinced we should change these protectionist provisions of the Constitution. There are many reasons we should continue protecting our industries. However, we want to devise the Constitution properly so it won't become detrimental to investments," he said.

"These economic provisions are still debatable. We don't know if it would even be altered," Domogan added.

The talking points designed for the constituent assembly involved the reviews of charter provisions prohibiting foreign ownership of Philippine properties as well as media outfits, he said.

These were the proposed changes explained by former President Fidel Ramos when he submitted to Domogan's committee his position paper, the Baguio lawmaker said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Protests delay $150-M coal power plant

ILOILO CITY—Protests over environmental concerns have delayed the plan to put up a $150-million coal-fired power plant in Ajuy town, an abundant fishing ground 92 km north of here.

Ajuy Vice Mayor Ramon Espinosa and four members of the municipal council have refused to grant Mayor Jett Rojas authority to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Korean Electric Power Corporation (Kepco) of South Korea.

The Kepco plans to put up the 100-megawatt plant under a build-operate-own scheme in the coastal village of Pedada. It signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Energy on June 3 to build the plant as part of measures to boost Panay's power supply.

The plant will be using the Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC), the latest technology from Switzerland, which, according to energy and Kepco officials, ensures the ecologically safe use of coal.

Coal will be supplied by the Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC) in Caluya town, Antique.

Espinosa said they would block the project for "as long as we are not convinced" that the plant will be environmentally safe.

Espinosa and councilors Emmanuel Asumbra, Carlos Tijam, Dulce Agatona Blas and Renata Verdad filed a leave of absence to block the approval of the resolution authorizing Rojas to sign an agreement with Kepco. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

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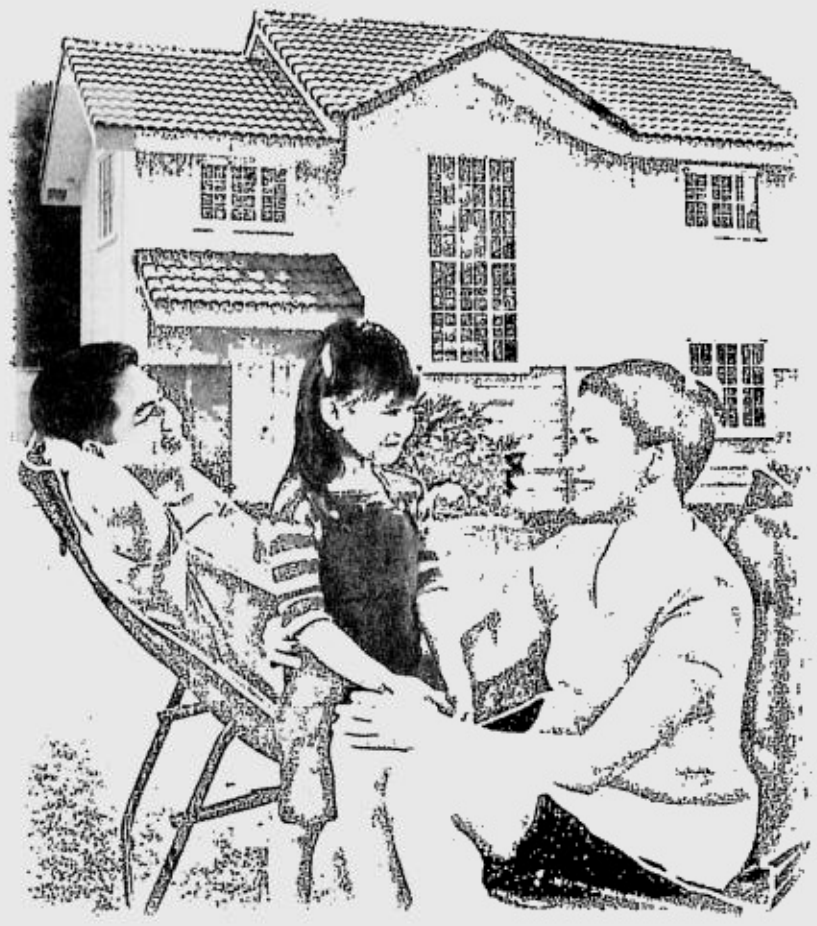

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Female PMA cadet drowns in swimming practice

BAGUIO CITY—A female cadet of the Philippine Military Academy drowned on Monday at the PMA swimming pool while practicing for a swimming competition.

The PMA public information office identified the victim as Fourth Class Cadet Mary Rose Nabong, 21, of Catbalogan, Samar.

The body of Nabong was recovered from the deepest portion of the pool, at 12 feet, at past 5 p.m. on Monday. Her classmates searched for her after they failed to find her in the barracks.

Nabong and 34 other cadets went to the pool at about 3:45 p.m. to practice. A PMA statement said since there was no time limit for the practice, the cadets individually left the pool.

Her fellow cadets and members of the PMA swimming corps squad found her rubber shoes and gray shorts at the edge of the pool.

Members of the swimming team then dove into the pool to search for her. After three dives, one of the cadets found Nabong at the bottom of the 12-ft deep portion of the pool.

A cadet trained on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) tried to revive her but failed. Doctors at the Fort del Pilar Station Hospital tried but failed to revive her and declared her dead at 6:20 p.m.

The medico-legal office of the Baguio City police confirmed that Nabong died of drowning and said she could have suffered from muscle cramps before she drowned.

PMA Plebe Mary Rose Nabong's remains at the PMA chapel. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

Nabong's parents, who were already notified of her death, were here last Saturday to attend Nabong's recognition as a member of the PMA Maragtas Class of 2007. Nabong was one of the 26 female cadets of the Maragtas Class.

Her remains lie at the PMA chapel.

Nabong was the first female cadet to die while training in the academy since the PMA accepted women in 1993.

She was also the second casualty of her class. On June 26, search and rescue teams found the decomposing body of Jomel Ariel Valencia, who earlier fell into a 90-ft deep ravine along Kennon Road here.

Two other Maragtas class members were reported hurt due to combative sports. Cadet Fourth Class John Heinrich Francisco suffered serious head injuries when he fell to the floor after he was kicked in a taekwondo practice.

Cadet Fourth Class Jonathan Sarausas, 20, a native of Bukidnon, was admitted to the Baguio General Hospital (BGH) last month after two liters of blood were found in his stomach. Doctors said his liver was swelling.

Sarausas later told doctors that he was injured in a boxing match two weeks before he was admitted to the BGH. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GenSan mayor confirms US troops in city

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. confirmed the presence of United States military advisers here.

"Yes, they are here," Acharon told reporters when asked over the weekend about the presence of US soldiers in the city.

But he said the intention of the visit was merely to evaluate the infrastructure projects funded under the US government's Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) package and had nothing to do with the rumored staging of Balikatan exercises in Central Mindanao.

Local projects funded under PAP include the General Santos City airport, the Makar Port expansion, the General Santos City fish port and an all-weather road network linking the city to other parts of the South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Saranganí-General Santos (Socsksargen) area.

"This (presence) is part of the evaluation of the completed infrastructure projects funded under the PAP of the US government," Acharon said.

The mayor said nobody from among the civilian staff members of the US embassy was willing to come here to conduct an evaluation of the projects because of peace and order concerns.

"Now you know the reason why the members of the US military are the ones doing it. They are brave enough to go to Mindanao," Acharon said.

Staging the joint US-RP military exercises in Central Mindanao was a remote possibility, he added.

Frequent visits by US servicemen here bolstered rumors the servicemen's presence could be a prelude to the staging of joint US-RP military exercises or Balikatan in Central Mindanao.

Local officials in Central Mindanao have been asking Malacañang to hold military exercises between Philippine and US soldiers in the region.

When asked whether the US was planning to finance and undertake more projects here, Acharon said, "It could be possible."

The mayor further revealed that the US military advisers had told him to just submit a proposal for projects to the US embassy in Manila.

The Philippines is one of the theaters in the US' antiterrorism campaign due to the presence of Moro guerrillas in Mindanao who have links with the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

The Abu Sayyaf has been tagged as the group that has close links with the al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist networks.

The US government has sent military personnel to Mindanao to help train Filipino soldiers on counterterrorism tactics and provide skills on new weapons.

Military exercises that were held in Basilan province, one of the bases of the Abu Sayyaf, resulted in major infrastructure projects for Basilan, one of the poorest provinces of the country.

The Basilan experience was hailed by officials supporting the military exercises as the best example of the positive results of the war games. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Taiwanese, Chinese charged with illegal shrimp culture

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two foreigners in Zambales were charged last week in what may be the "first decisive victory" against the illegal culture of the Pacific white shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei) in the Philippines.

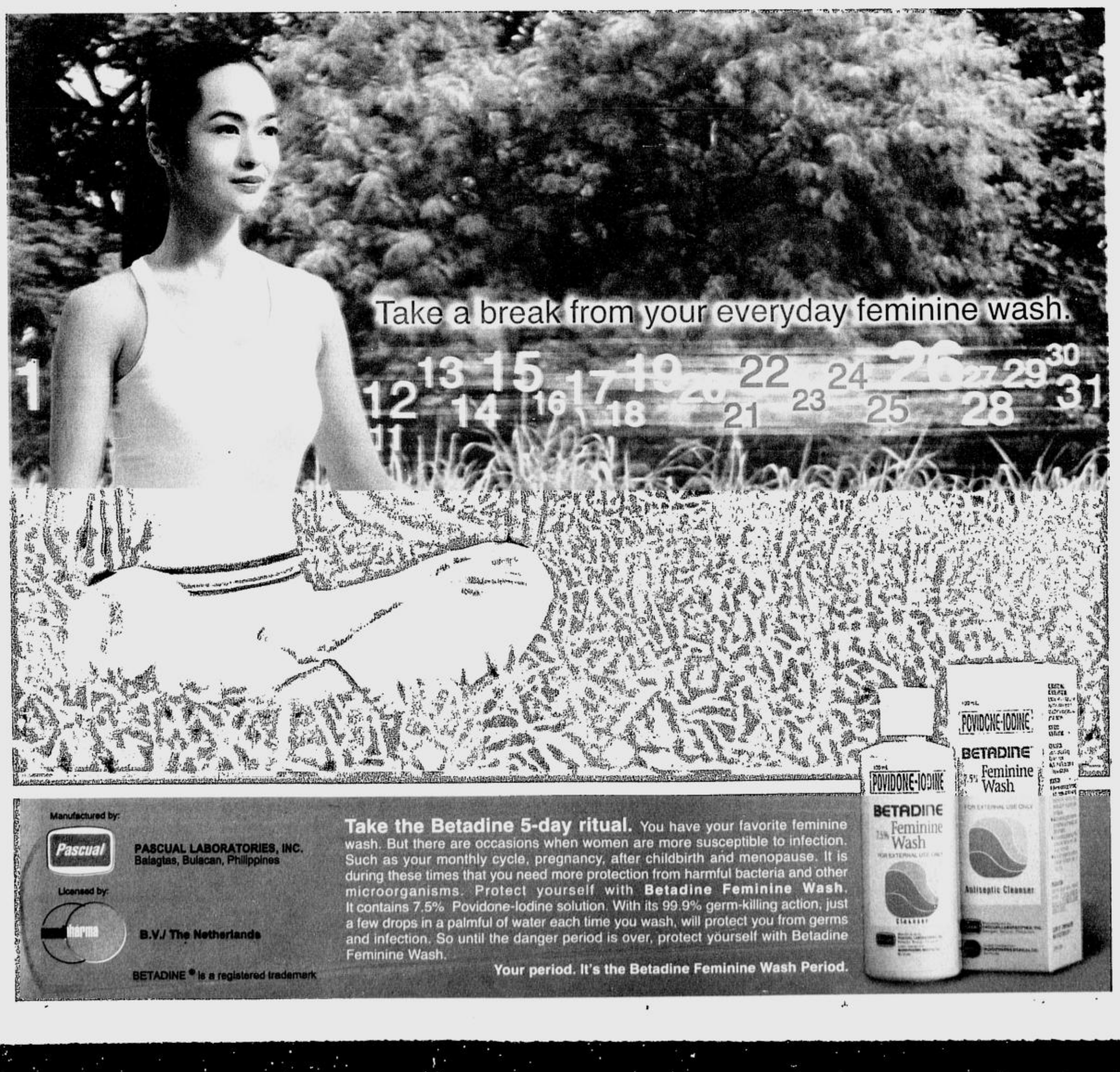
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Malcolm Sarmiento described the lawsuit against Taiwanese Tzu Hsien Hsu and a Chinese identified only as Wu as a "landmark" case.

Tzu and Wu were said to be the first growers of vannamei arrested since the government outlawed in 2001 the entry and culture of exotic aquatic species of any stages through Fisheries Administrative Order 207.

The prohibition came to protect the local aquaculture industry from diseases and virus, including the Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV), which had plagued the shrimp industry in the United States, Taiwan and Indonesia, reports said.

Tzu and Wu were arrested in separate operations two weeks ago in Barangay Lipay in Palauig town and Barangay Palanginan in Iba town.

The BFAR shrimp importation monitoring and surveillance team confirmed the presence of the banned species in the suspects' fishponds. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Kicking old habits in vegetable belt

By Maurice Malanes
La Trinidad, Benguet

STUCK with the 1960s and 1970s Green Revolution gospel of high productivity via chemical farming, Igorot vegetable farmers, who produce 80 percent of the country's tropical vegetables, may take time to kick old attitudes and habits.

But something good came out of the liberalized importation and smuggling into the country of vegetables from overseas, which have threatened to kill the local vegetable industry since last year.

A few Igorot vegetable farmers now seek to go organic.

"I used to be skeptical about organic farming, but after we came face to face with the threat of imported and smuggled vegetables, I realized that one way to be competitive was to produce healthy organic vegetables," said Dionie Baucas, a farmer and barangay chair of Catlubong in Buguias, Benguet.

Representing his village, one of the agrarian reform communities in Benguet, Baucas participated in organic training seminars cosponsored by the Department of Agrarian Reform, Benguet State University and the Shell Foundation last year.

He also participated in separate organic farming training by the Department of Agriculture.

But after the training, Baucas said he began to ask himself, "Shall I limit myself only to attending training?"

It was time, he reckoned, to apply what he learned in his own farm.

Aside from planting carrots and wongbok (Chinese cabbage) on his more or less 1,000 square meters of vegetable garden using pure decayed weeds and chicken dung, Baucas also convinced two other farmers in his village to do the same.

So the three of them in Catlubong and two more in neighboring Barangay Bangao, also in Buguias, have begun cultivating carrots and wongbok since June by using decomposed wastes.

One farmer whom Baucas convinced to shift to organic farming was Julieta Pacsi, who said she was determined to succeed, particularly because she and the other few organic converts in the village are still on the experimental stage.

A FARMER holds a cabbage plant affected by unusual flowering. His fields are abloom with yellow flowers sprouting from the cabbage plants. EV ESPIRITU

Organic farming

"We have to start shifting to organic farming or else our farms will die," said Pacsi. She said the soil in most of Buguias vegetable farms was already tired and no amount of inorganic fertilizer could make it productive in due time.

Buguias is the center of the so-called vegetable belt, which includes neighboring Atok town, part of Kibungan town, also in Benguet, and Bauko in Mt. Province.

Into this vegetable belt, agrochemical companies since the 1990s have been disposing of each year an average of 500 tons of fungicide, 500,000 liters of pesticide and almost 15,000 tons of commercial fertilizer worth half a billion pesos, a farm supply dealer said.

Despite the flood of commercial fertilizers and pesticides into the vegetable belt, farmers complain about what agriculturists call the phenomenon of "pest succession." Pesticides eliminated the leafhopper, a cabbage pest, only to be succeeded by the diamond-back moth, a more destructive pest.

Farmers have also complained of club root, a bacterial disease attacking the roots of cabbages that was unheard of before the age of commercial fertilizers.

The average vegetable farmer in the vegetable belt sprays his 90-day cabbage 12 to 21 times, depending on the infestation. He also mixes a cocktail of three to six brands of pesticide and fungicide, believing that the more he mixes, the more potent the insecticide.

Like drug addiction, these decades of chemical farming system may take time to change, Baucas conceded. "But we have to start somewhere in bringing about change in our own small way," he said.

Baucas and the few neighbors he helped convert were some of a growing number of farmers, who are now seeking to be weaned from long years of chemical farming.

In March, Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias, who also used to farm, invited to his province Andry Lim, president of the Tribal Mission Foundation International, a Davao-based group promoting natural farming technology and healthy living.

Lim trained 41 farmers in Sadsadan village in Bauko on natural farming technology, whose principle is not only to grow plants but to grow soil by bringing back its beneficial trace elements and beneficial microorganisms.

Earlier, the European Union-funded Central Cordillera Agricultural Program (Cecap) had also been training some vegetable farmers on organic farming and integrated pest management, a way of managing and controlling pests without pesticides.

One beneficiary of Cecap's training is Patricio Dal-o, 49, a farmer from Besao, Mt. Province, who has been producing organically grown tomatoes, broccoli and other vegetables since 1997.

Dal-o used to rely on chemical fertilizers until Cecap introduced what he said was "actually our ancestors' way of farming."

With new crop diseases emerging even with chemical inputs, he realized it was time "to go back to the basics—to go organic."

Now that a few farmers are going organic, their next concern is the market. Baucas said the BSU committed itself to help certify organically grown vegetables so these could be priced higher than the chemically grown ones.

But Dal-o has no problem with marketing. He said his organic crops from his 2,000-square-meter farm were always "sold out" in various offices in Sagada and Bontoc.

"My crops easily sell because more and more people now are conscious about eating healthy food," he said. "That's our competitive edge."

NO MORE A GHOST

Pioneer American educator honored

SINCE his death in 1913, Frank Russell White had been consigned to public memory as a ghost that haunted the dilapidated Concepcion North Central School in Tarlac.

Through decades, and even after a fire gutted the building called the Escuelang Bayu (New School) in 1979, the ghostly tales about "Mr. White" lived on, multiplying several times over as parents and teachers used him as admonition for erring boys and girls and rendering him further into anonymity.

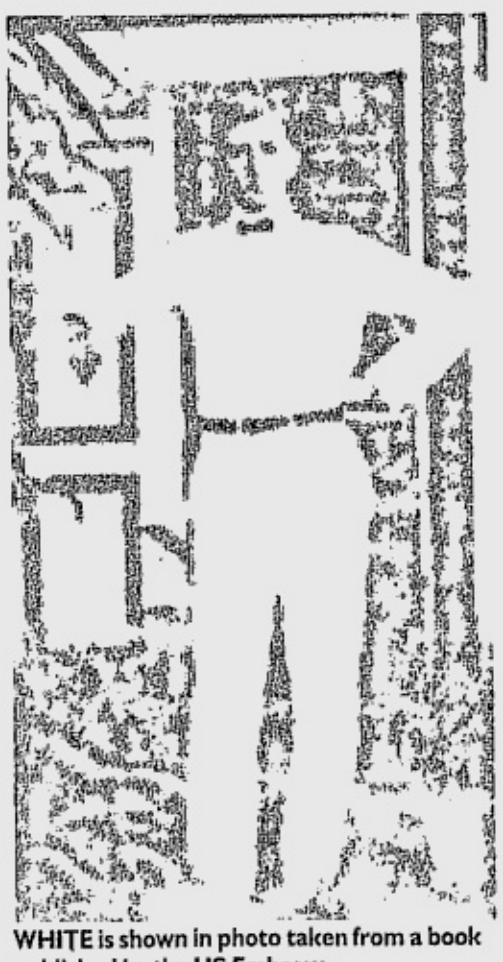
White, only 24 years old when he left Old Mill Creek in Illinois, made pioneering marks in the public school system in the Philippines, as research by Prof. Lino Dizon showed.

Dizon's book, "Mr. White (A Thomasite History of Tarlac Province)," proved that White established the country's first public high school, emphasized the subject of good manners and right conduct in the curriculum, and introduced vocational and industrial courses.

The school he started evolved into what is now the Tarlac State University.

The 198-page book, launched on Sept. 4 in Tarlac, was an attempt to pluck White out of obscurity, and through a factual telling of his life, add new insights into how the early American teachers—called Thomasites or those who disembarked from the US Army Transport Thomas in 1901—helped educate the Filipinos.

White, a fresh graduate of the University of Chicago, arrived in May or three months ahead of the 500-member Thomasite batch.



WHITE is shown in photo taken from a book published by the US Embassy.

Dizon's research, a 20-year on-and-off endeavor pricked by interest for the "ghost of Mr. White," showed the American as a dedicated educator.

The labor of teaching, training teachers, and setting up and supervising more schools took toll on White's health. He died in 1913 at the age of 37. His last stint was as director of education in the Philippines.

"He not only served but stayed on. Somehow, this country grabbed him," said Ronald Post, US Embassy's public affairs counselor.

The legacy of White or other Thomasites, according to him, had the element of colonialism and missionaryism and few, he added, challenged that.

Dr. Ricardo Jose, chair of the University of the Philippines' history department, called Dizon's book "very scholarly" and covered an interesting period in Philippine history.

Ateneo de Manila University's Fr. John Schumacher, SJ, said Dizon's book did "not hide those who lacked (White's) enthusiasm, the 'carpetbaggers,' whose careers were generally troublesome and short until they returned to the US."

To Dizon, the book was simply an "approach to give a face to Mr. White and the pioneering Filipino and American pioneering educators who were nameless for sometime."

The book was also dedicated to Dizon's late mother Cleopatra, a product of the school that White put up. *Tonette Orejas*

Death centenary

The book was published by the Center for Tarlaqueño Studies, where Dizon is director, and the Holy Angel University's Center for Kapampangan Studies.

Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus and the public affairs office of the US Embassy lent publication assistance.

The book came two years after the centennial of the arrival of the American teachers and a decade short of the death centenary of White.

In line with the celebration of MCU's 100th Founding Anniversary

Manila Central University - Ultrasound Services, Inc. (MCU-USI)

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Samson Road, Caloocan City
October 11-12, 2003
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Topics / Speakers

"The Early Pregnancy Scan"	Ma. Victoria Valmonte-Torres, MD, FPSUOG
"Avoiding Traps in Ectopic Pregnancy"	Veronica Deniega, MD, FPSUOG
"Proposed Cervical Scoring System for Predicting Preterm Labor"	Edeliza Elvambuena-Amorin, MD, DPOGS
"The Use of Transvaginal ultrasound to Predict Vaginal Delivery"	Kathleen Grace Clemente-Gamutan, MD
"Uterine Artery Doppler in Preeclampsia"	Florida Lucero-Tan, MD, FPSUOG
"Telemedicine in OB-GYN Ultrasound"	Mr. Gerald Millena
Interactive Sessions on Fetal Anomalies:	
"Abdominal Wall and Funiss"	Wolfrido W. Sumpaico, MD, FPSUOG
"Posterior Fossa"	Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, MD, FPSUOG
"Fetal Urinary System"	Angelita Reyes-Teotico, MD, FPSUOG
"The Fetal Heart"	Prof. C. Anandakumar, MD
Demonstration: "Fetal Heart Ultrasound"	Prof. C. Anandakumar, MD

For particulars, please contact:
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MCU-USI, G/F MCU Medical Annex, Samson Road, Caloocan City Tel.# 3669670

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Asean Solidarity

IN SINGAPORE. Generals of the Armies. Lt. Gen. Gregorio M. Camiling Jr. (seventh from left) of the Philippines joins his counterparts for a group photo after the Asean Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. The Army chiefs from 10 Southeast Asian countries meet to discuss new measures to swap intelligence, bolster cross-border security and crush regional terrorism. From left: Abdur Rahmani bin Hj Basir of Brunei, Meas Sophea of Cambodia, Ryamizard RC of Indonesia, Khamfong Thammavongsa of Laos, Mohd Shahrom bin Nordin of Malaysia, Sein Linn of Burma, Camiling of the Philippines, Desmond Kuek of Singapore, Somdhat Attanand of Thailand and Do Trung Duong of Vietnam. AP

IN MANILA. Asean police chiefs link arms during the Asean police chiefs 23rd annual conference in Manila on Tuesday. From left, Lt. Gen. Mao Chandara of Cambodia, Da'i Bachtiar of Indonesia, Khampha Sengdara of Laos, Dato' Seri Mohd Bakri B. HJ Omar of Malaysia, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. of the Philippines, Khin Yi of Burma, Khoo Boon Hui of Singapore and Tawatchai Pailee of Thailand. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Iggy faces contempt rap

From page A1

setting, be coerced to bare his private life for all to see and feast on," he told reporters at a press conference at the LTA Building in Makati.

At another news conference, Angara said he would raise the 1950 high court ruling at the closed-door meeting of the three Senate committees investigating Lacson's allegations that the First Gentleman owned 12 secret bank accounts containing P260 million.

Tambobong Estate

Angara, chair of the constitutional amendments committee, said the court decision upheld the Senate move to cite French broker Jean Arnault for contempt and to detain him. The Frenchman was then being investigated for the sale of a Tambobong Estate in Novaliches, Quezon City, a government property.

Arnault negotiated the sale allegedly on behalf of Tony Quirino, brother of the then President Quirino.

At a Senate inquiry, Arnault admitted paying P500,000 as bribe to facilitate the deal, but he refused to name names.

"He didn't want to identify the bribe-taker because it will (allegedly) incriminate him," Angara said.

The senators then cited him for contempt. "He was ordered detained at the Muntinlupa (prisons facility), until he relented," Angara said.

"The only remedy for the lifting of the citation for contempt was for him to answer the questions of the senators," he said.

Arnault was released soon after he decided to give straight answers, Angara said.

"I think that the Senate, when it convenes in executive session, can follow that precedent," Angara told reporters. "I don't think the Senate is really hopeless and powerless to compel a witness to disclose things that are within the legitimate domain of the Supreme Court."

Aside from this jurisprudence, the Senate can compel Ignacio to answer its questions because he claimed he was Jose Pidal and "knowingly shed the right to privacy," Angara said.

But Jesus Santos, a member of Ignacio's legal team, said jurisprudence was also on Ignacio's side.

Empty threat

Santos described Angara's threat to detain Ignacio as an "empty" one. "That (detention) cannot happen," Santos told reporters.

Opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and John Osmeña shared the views of Angara, saying that Ignacio could not invoke the right to privacy when he volunteered to participate in a matter of public interest.

IGNACIO ARROYO: Willing to go to jail if cited for contempt by Senate. JESS YUSON

Pimentel said the right to privacy came into the country's jurisprudence because of the Blas Ople vs Ruben Torres case.

He said the Supreme Court ruled that the implementation of the national identification system could not be enforced on the strength of an executive order "because it might infringe on the right to privacy."

Pimentel said Ignacio should have invoked the right against self-incrimination in refusing to answer questions from senators.

Osmeña said the three Senate committees should have cited Ignacio and bank managers for contempt for refusing to answer them.

He noted that the committees appeared to have been "very lenient and accommodating to all the witnesses."

"What we should have done is to put them in the garage downstairs and not let them out until they tell the truth," Osmeña told reporters.

He criticized bank officials for their "new concept of the provisions" of the Bank Secrecy Law.

Incensed

Both Osmeña and Pimentel were incensed at the bank officials' reasoning that the Bank Secrecy Law covered questions about the bank official who opened the Jose Pidal account for Ignacio.

"Secrecy of bank deposits applies only to any information regarding the amount deposited and not to details on how the account was opened," Osmeña said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, has asked Ignacio to submit a memorandum supporting his decision to clam up on the Jose Pidal accounts.

Senator Arroyo also said that his committee had asked the banks involved to submit their "legal position" on the Bank Secrecy Law.

Arroyo said the committee would await the memoranda of Ignacio and the banks before the executive session of the three Senate committees could be called to determine whether they could compel Ignacio to answer questions about the Jose Pidal accounts.

At his press conference, Ignacio said he was willing to disclose everything about the Jose Pidal transactions to the Senate if charges were filed against him and if there was a court order.

"Until such time there is a lawful order from a proper authority such as a court or a prosecutor in formal legal proceedings, I will invoke my constitutional right to privacy which cannot be invaded without my consent," he said.

"Only when it has been proven conclusively that the Jose Pidal accounts received public funds that these accounts, which were my private accounts, can become the subject of public interest," he added.

He insisted that "no public funds ever entered these accounts."

Triple A account

After denying the First Gentleman had any triple A accounts with Morgan Stanley, a lawyer for Arroyo said yesterday that his client did indeed have an account in the US investment house.

Santos, who is also part of Ignacio's legal team, said the First Gentleman did open a triple A account with Morgan Stanley in 1997 but this was closed sometime in 1999.

"It was only $25,000 and not $5 million as claimed by Sen. (Sergio) Osmeña III," Santos told reporters.

Santos said an individual needed only $5,000 to open a Triple A account and not $5 million as Osmeña had claimed.

A triple A account, also known as an active assets account, is the investment house's "comprehensive money management solution" for individual investors, according to the Morgan Stanley website.

The account offers check writing privileges, direct deposit, bill payment services and electronic fund transfer. It also offers a comprehensive reporting of monthly and annual statements and a debit card.

SC final judge . . .

From page A1

terview with reporters covering the Feliciano Commission. Bernas is a member of the panel investigating the roots of the failed July 27 mutiny.

The phrase "right to privacy" is not mentioned in the Constitution although Article VI states that the "rights of persons appearing in legislative inquiries should be protected," Bernas said.

"It seems to me that many of the legislators think that the only thing protected by the Constitution in inquiries is the right against self-incrimination. But the Constitution says the 'rights'—plural—of the person appearing in a legislative inquiry should be protected."

The phrase "right to privacy" is not stated in the Constitution, "but it doesn't mean it's not there," Bernas explained.

"Because you have to make a distinction between the Constitution which is just the text, and constitutional law, which is the whole literature that is developed around the text," he said.

Bernas also said Ignacio became "a public figure" when he came out in the open to claim he was the real Jose Pidal but this did not mean that he had lost his right to privacy.

"Your right to privacy about private matters is still protected," he said.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Raul Gonzalez said Ignacio was right in invoking his right to privacy when he refused to answer queries from senators about the Jose Pidal accounts.

The right to privacy is guaranteed under Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution, according to Gonzalez.

He noted that there was no court order requiring Ignacio to answer the senators' questions affecting his private person.

"Ignacio Arroyo is not a public figure but a private citizen who has the right to be left alone, to be free from unwarranted publicity, and has the right to live without unwarranted interference," the congressman said.

He cited the Supreme Court ruling in Morfe vs Mutuc (22 Scra 424) which states that "the concept of liberty would be emasculated if it does not likewise compel respect for one's personality as a unique individual whose claim to privacy demands respect."

Liberty in the constitutional sense must mean more than freedom from unlawful government restraint and must include privacy if it is to be the repository of freedom, according to Gonzalez.

He said the right to be left alone was the beginning of all freedoms.

Gonzalez cited another Supreme Court ruling in Ayer Productions vs Capulong (160 Scra 861), which says that the right to privacy protects an individual from unwarranted publicity of his private affairs or activities.

"There can be no doubt that the right to privacy is constitutionally protected," the tribunal said.

Rep. Rodolfo Albano of Isabela said Ignacio's invocation of the right to privacy could also be invoked in court and other administrative proceedings.

Albano, a former regional trial court judge in Davao, said that while he did not want to teach senators that the first thing to do in court proceedings was to let the accuser prove his case before witnesses were called to testify.

"The problem is that the senators take Lacson's word and presentation of documents as the truth," Albano said.

He said that the right to privacy was tantamount to one's right against searches and right to private communication.

In administrative proceedings, when the issue of privacy is raised, those concerned have to get a court order first in deference to such right, Albano said.

He said Lacson should present the evidence before the committees investigating the Jose Pidal issue instead of the committees fishing for evidence from the witnesses.

"The issue now is how the Senate will get to the bottom of the inquiry. The only way to do it is to let Lacson produce hard evidence before the senators can confront the witnesses," Albano said.

Break up with Mike, Lakas solon urges GMA

From page A1

appear too drastic, Gunigundo, a lawyer, said: "*Bakit naman* (How so)?" He explained that unlike an annulment, a legal separation was not a dissolution of marriage.

He also said that under a legal separation, the First Couple would remain spouses but "not sharing a common bed and common property."

"After this thing is over, or until after 2004, the President and her husband can always ask the courts to dissolve their legal separation," he said.

Lakas is co-chaired by the President and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. Early on in the controversy triggered by Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegation that her husband was holding bank accounts containing laundered money under the name Jose Pidal, Ms Macapagal declared that she was married to the country and that she would not lift a finger to defend Arroyo.

Nevertheless, Gunigundo said "a sizable number of party leaders" were "very much alarmed" by the effects of the controversy.

Asked whether these party leaders were getting demoralized, he answered in the affirmative and said: "We are suffering in silence. But we can't ask questions because our hands are tied."

But House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Mandaluyong) said the ones who were "perhaps affected" were those "insistent" on the President's running as party standard-bearer in 2004.

Gonzales expressed strong disagreement with Gunigundo's suggestion of a legal separation for the First Couple, saying: "That's a personal zdecision for the President to make. It shouldn't even be suggested by anyone outside the family."

Another Lakas lawmaker, Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, conceded that "the others" in the party might be affected by the controversy, but said he did not think they should be.

Moreno said that since Arroyo's younger brother Ignacio had come forward to say he was Jose Pidal, the issue would be laid to rest once the latter proved his claim.

Reporters saw Arroyo briefly yesterday after a press conference called by Ignacio and his lawyers.

But Arroyo refused to answer any questions from reporters, disappointing those poised to seek his reaction to Gunigundo's proposal.

The First Gentleman earlier said on nationwide television that the controversy had strained his marriage.

Cold feet

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City), an ally of the administration, said it was "probable that fair-weather members of Lakas" were "developing cold feet."

"At a proper time, it might be good for Lakas to check on the loyalties of its leaders," said Gonzalez, who was quick to defend the First Gentleman at the onset of the controversy.

Referring to the "affected" party members, he said: "These are people who don't know how to defend their leader."

Lakas Rep. Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur) said there were "conflicting views" on the matter among the party leaders.

"There are those who feel pity for the President. But generally, there is no effect because there are no government funds involved," he said.

Pichay also pointed out that Ms Macapagal's relationship with her husband was a "personal" issue.

Asked whether there was alarm within the ruling party, Lakas Rep. Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) said: "Not really."

He said the Jose Pidal controversy was among "the issues of public interest that must be fully ventilated."

"I think most Lakas leaders should be loyal to the country first, and to the party secondarily," Paras added.

But Gunigundo warned that unless Ms Macapagal convincingly distanced herself from her husband, "this administration will be destroyed."

He said the President could file for legal separation and "have their conjugal property liquidated and divided between the two parties." *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

GLORIA'S BF
President Macapagal is welcomed by Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to the MMDA main office in Guadalupe, Makati City, for an executive meeting with Metro Manila mayors. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bangko Sentral restricts purchase of dollars

From page A1

massive capital flight. If at all, it would be on the retail level," said Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

But Joey Bermudez, president of Chinatrust Bank, said there was capital flight only when foreign investors take out their placements or close their factories and repatriate their capital back to their parent country.

"Shifting of peso assets to dollars is not necessarily capital flight. But it creates pressure on the peso," Bermudez said.

To him, the better gauge of capital flight is the balance of payments, especially the capital and financial accounts component. If these numbers are in a deficit, then there is capital flight.

As of July, the BOP deficit stood at $239 million. The capital and financial accounts that reflect the movement in investments, capital and borrowings have posted a huge deficit through most of the year.

Coronel said another indicator of capital flight would be a decline in dollar deposits in the local banking system.

The central bank reported that dollar deposits in the banking system eased slightly to $12.689 billion as of Aug. 15 from $12.7 billion the previous week.

"I am really more worried about those who are not coming in than those who left or are leaving," said the BAP executive director.

Investors briefings

Corazon Guidote, executive director of the country's Investor Relations Office, said the Philippine economic team currently holding investors briefings in Europe and Asia was well received.

"We are convincing them that it's the economic numbers that matter rather than the ripples created by the political noise. ROP papers are generating strong interest even from equity investors," said Guidote in a text message.

Coronel believed that the market continued to worry about the coup rumors after the Palace admitted there remained threats to the Macapagal administration.

"Everything taken into consideration, announcing coup rumors is better because it shows the government is in control. But it doesn't mean the market will be appeased," said the BAP official.

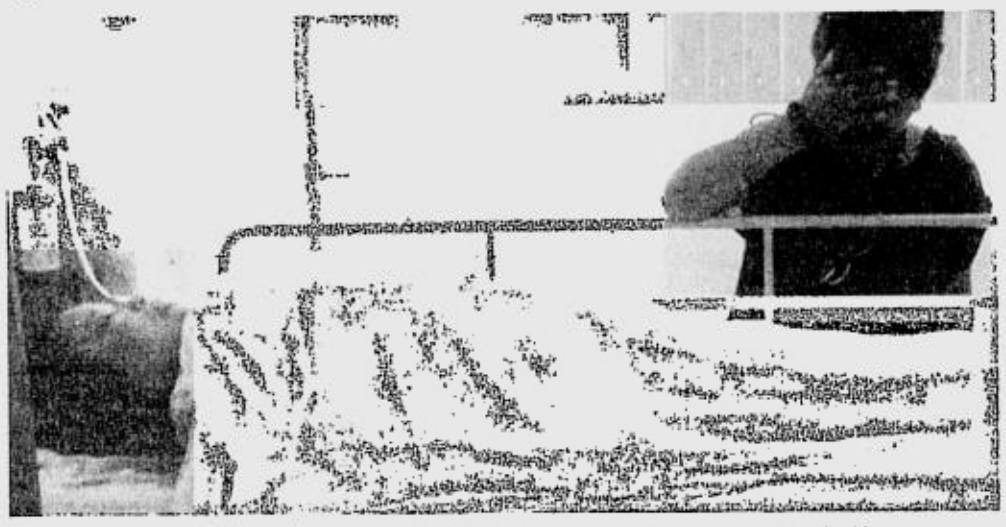
Malacañang yesterday called on the Senate to terminate its probe into the money-laundering charges against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo through the alleged use of the Jose Pidal bank accounts because of the inquiry's debilitating impact on investor confidence in the country.

In an interview with dzRB radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the peso's weakness was "a good argument" not to continue with the Senate probe.

"The sooner we resolve and set aside this futile investigation, the better it is for everybody, especially our economy," Bunye said.

Bunye said the investigation was getting nowhere because of the Bank Secrecy Law which prohibits the opening of bank accounts without the express consent of the owner.

"If they want to undertake an honest-to-goodness investigation where the accounts could be opened, the case should be filed in the proper venue, which is the court," Bunye said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*



AN unidentified relative cries over the body of Lilia Diaz at the Olivarez Hospital in Parañaque City. ROGER MARGALLO

Top airport official killed . . .

From page A1

rushed her to the Olivarez General Hospital in Parañaque, where she was declared dead on arrival.

"We strongly believe this is the job of professionals because it took the gunman only one shot," Estilles said.

MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda said he could not think of any reason for the ambush other than Diaz's support for reforms.

"It was a cowardly act," he said in a phone interview. "Our drive for reforms started last year. Apparently, we stepped on a lot of toes."

Manda said Diaz, who was part of a committee reviewing the contracts of concessionaires at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, was receiving death threats as early as three months ago.

He said Diaz was "working diligently to root out corruption and maximize productivity."

Manda also said Diaz had told him the names of the people who would have wanted her dead, and that he submitted these names to the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation after the ambush.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered "a thorough investigation of this assassination, to the end that the perpetrator of this dastardly act would be brought to justice as soon as possible," according to her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

Shocked and grieving airport officials and employees attended a Mass held in Diaz's memory yesterday afternoon at the MIAA headquarters. Just the other day, they said, Diaz was busy helping run airport operations while Manda was attending a hearing at the Senate on the Jose Pidal controversy involving the President's husband.

Precision

Estilles said the ambush occurred at around 9:05 a.m. at the corner of Venus Street and E. Rodriguez Avenue in Parañaque.

The gunman supposedly waited for the white Mitsubishi Exceed (XAY-781) driven by Defeo, 29, to slow down as it was approaching a speed hump in front of the Brickstone Subdivision-Phase 3 in Barangay Moonwalk before walking from a nearby convenience store for the hit.

Estilles said the gunman walked to the front of the vehicle and then to where Diaz was seated at the back, and fired through the passenger window, hitting her with precision.

The gunman escaped toward the direction of Better Living Subdivision on board a motorcycle driven by another man, Estilles said.

He quoted witnesses as saying that the gunman was around 5'5" tall, of slim build, and in the late 20s.

Members of the Scene of the Crime Operations found a spent shell of a .45 cal. pistol, he said.

Manda said both he and Diaz had been receiving death threats because of their efforts to curb irregularities at the airport. He said he had requested additional security from the PNP as a result of Diaz's murder.

He also said certain sectors had been convincing the two of them to take part in "efforts to destabilize the government." He declined to elaborate other than saying that the killing of Diaz, which followed the recent shooting of the Customs district collectors in Manila and Cebu City, could also be part of destabilization efforts.

"We were just doing our jobs to make the MIAA more efficient and to give it more savings," Manda said.

He said the reforms included studying which services the MIAA could accomplish on its own to eliminate the need for outsourcing, and tightening the screening process for airport security agencies.

He added that the MIAA had also been trying to curb human smuggling.

Manda said Diaz's murder would not get in the way of more reforms at the airport. He said efforts would be further intensified "to rid the MIAA of undesirables."

He also said the "entire resources" of the MIAA would be employed to bring about the "swift and decisive capture" of Diaz's murderers.

"If the killers of Ms Diaz think that I and the entire MIAA will be cowed by her diabolic assassination, they have just made the biggest mistake of their murderous careers," he said.

Praise

Manda was all praise for Diaz, who worked with the MIAA for 17 years.

He described her as having brought a "a new culture" to the airport, "very hardworking," and one of his "most trusted assistants."

In July, a Pasay City judge sentenced Diaz and another airport official to three to four years in jail and fined P500,000 each for supposedly extorting from the Olongapo Maintenance Service Inc., a firm contracted by the MIAA seven years ago to provide janitorial services at the Naia.

Court documents said Diaz, then manager of the MIAA accounting division, was found to have connived with Rolando Hernandez, manager of the general services division, in trashing the OSMI performance report after the company's general manager, Albert San Gabriel, refused to give P200,000 in grease money.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday that Diaz was not summoned to the ongoing Senate inquiry looking into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's corruption allegations against the President's husband.

"No one asked for her to be summoned," said Arroyo, who chairs the blue ribbon committee that is leading the inquiry.

But Diaz's name was mentioned at the hearing the other day, when opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta asked Manda, president of Lualhati Foundation, about her.

According to Oreta's camp, the senator asked about Diaz because the name of the airport official had appeared in recent news articles. *With reports from Abigail L. Ho, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño*

Cardinal's Residence
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Philippines

"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" : A PASTORAL STATEMENT

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

CONSCIOUS of the present "state of affairs", which undoubtedly is tense, and CONCERNED about how it adversely affects our economy, and bitterly afflicts our people, we, the Archbishop, the Auxiliary Bishops, the Clergy, and the Laity of the Archdiocese of Cebu, deeply feel that now is not "a time to be silent", but a "time to speak" (Eccl.3:7).

COMMITTED as we are to our prophetic role, and in response to the challenge of the Apostle James... "Humbly welcome the 'word' that has taken root in you, with the power to save you. Act on this word. If all you do is listen to it, you are deceiving yourselves" (1:21-22), WE STRONGLY MAKE THIS APPEAL:

- Let us "make peace", the "peace" that "Blessed Pope John XXIII" has described as anchored on "truth, justice, love and freedom ("Pacem in Terris", April 11, 1963.);
- let the "truth", then, be told with courage in the proper forum in order to build trust
- let "justice" be upheld for all, always tempered with forgiving love;
- let "freedom" be really responsible at all times, at any cost.
- Let "democratic processes" take their proper course in settling "charges and counter-charges" in the proper venue and in holding elections at the proper time.

May "Sr. Sto. Nino continue to protect us. And may "Our Lady of Gu dal ", the Patroness of Cebu, pray for us, always and everywhere, Amen.

+RICARDO J. CARDINAL VIDAL
Archbishop of Cebu

August 30, 2003

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NBI: Coup to benefit drug lords

By Leila Salaverria and Christian Esguerra

DRUG syndicates have one big reason to support and fund any move to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo from office—and that is she is bad for business.

This fact, according to National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, lends credibility to the theory that drug money is being used to finance moves to unseat Ms Macapagal or destabilize her government.

"It's cheaper for (drug syndicates) to help fund destabilization plots than to lose their shabu laboratories," Wycoco told reporters yesterday.

He noted that "When they lose a laboratory, they lose a lot of money."

Over the last three months, the Arroyo administration has cracked down on the illegal drugs trade and has dismantled at least four shabu laboratories and factories.

Wycoco said drug syndicates lose around P1 billion for every shabu laboratory that ceases operation due to the government antinarcotics campaign. And they are feeling the pressure, he added.

As a result of the antidrug drive, the price of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu has reportedly jumped from P1,000 to P6,000 per gram.

Drug traffickers have also reportedly resorted to mixing cheap chemicals like powdered deodorant to meet the demand.

Nonetheless, Wycoco said the NBI was still looking for proof that drug money was indeed being used against the administration of Ms Macapagal.

This developed as Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. declared that there was still no evidence linking drug syndicates to destabilization moves against the government.

"To say anything about drug money being used in destabilization will be to speculate," PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. told reporters in an ambush interview.

Ebdane appeared irritated at reports linking drug syndicates to people behind the alleged destabilization plot.

The reports came from Malacañang.

However, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye has said that he was only citing a report by Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay, the police anti-illegal drug czar.

The supposed report had it that drug syndicates had joined the destabilization plot to salvage their operations in the face of the government's massive crackdown on illegal drugs.

Ebdane yesterday admitted that the PNP was investigating this theory but was not about make any hasty conclusion.

"We will only make announcements if we already have evidence," he said.

The NBI and the PNP started looking into possible narco-political links in the destabilization moves amid reports that a second coup was being planned against Ms Macapagal.

The first coup attempt on July 27 participated in by over 300 soldiers ended after a 20-hour standoff in Makati City.

Prior to that, the President set aside P1 billion for the anti-illegal drugs campaign. This was followed by the closure of major shabu factories.

Only one alleged big-time drug lord has been arrested, however.

8-month-old boy found dead in QC

EIGHT-MONTH-OLD John Ferson Esguerra De Guzman was found lifeless on Monday afternoon with several bite marks in different parts of the body.

Police suspected that the boy could have been eaten by rats infesting a drainage canal near the family's shanty in Camarin, Novaliches, Quezon City.

P02 Bernard Quintero said the boy's mother, Julie Anne, woke up at around 5:30 p.m. to find her baby dead.

But Quintero said it could also be possible that the boy could have been pinned under his mother's body while they were sleeping. He said they learned from Julie Anne that she did not hear her baby cry while they were asleep.

Maria Geroy, a neighbor, told police that at least 10 other babies in the area have died under mysterious circumstances during the past months. The babies also bore bite wounds, she said. *Tina Santos*

Illegal drug activities in Camanava dip by 50%

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE NORTHERN Police District has reduced drug activities in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Valenzuela and the municipality of Navotas by nearly 50 percent.

NPD Director Marcelino Franco made the claim eight days before President Macapagal-Arroyo's deadline for the antidrug drive.

Franco based the assessment on the number of drug-related arrests made in the CAMANAVA area. He said that out of the 1,900 names in the NPD watchlist, police have arrested about 900 of them.

Also, a number of suspected drug offenders have surrendered to their barangay officials during clearing operations, Franco said.

As Ms Macapagal's 3-month deadline nears, at least 10 barangay units in CAMANAVA have been declared "drug free" after a series of clearing operations.

A LIFE LESS ORDINARY
A wooden cart covered with a canvas tarp is what these children are calling home. Their father, like any other dad with a job, would leave his wife and children every morning to sift through various garbage sites in Metro Manila. He would barely earn enough to feed, much less clothe, his children. The family has set up house on a corner of New York Street in Cubao, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

MetroBriefs

Bloody buy-bust

P01 BARTOLOME Rosales on Monday was with a team of lawmen on a routine buy-bust operation in Marikina City when he encountered a suspected drug felon identified only as "Taktak." Just as the team under Insp. Conrado Cruz was rounding up suspects in an alleged drug lair in Barangay Tanong at about 9:30 p.m., Taktak put up a fight, grabbed P01 Rosales from behind, pulled out a 9-mm pistol and shot the lawman in the arm, said Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief. The wounded officer managed to fire back, killing the suspect on the spot. *Luige del Puerto*

Cop hunted down

IT'S P01 Vladimir Binayug's turn to be hunted down. In a complaint, Rosendo Belleza, 24, has accused Binayug of the Caloocan Police, and his two cohorts of robbery, physical injury and homicide. Belleza told the police that Binayug, Alberto Perito and a third unidentified man, handcuffed the complainant and his friend, Felix Largado, 45, outside the Cupidzone Videoke Bar on Sept. 2 at about 1:30 a.m. Belleza said the suspects forced them into a silver Toyota Corolla where they robbed the victims before letting them out in Amparo Subdivision, Caloocan. When the victims began to run, the suspects shot them, hitting both in the head. Largado was killed while Belleza managed to escape. A witness corroborated Belleza's statement. Dionicio Borromeo of the Caloocan Police said Binayug had not reported to the station since Sept. 2. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Lawman still missing

THE WESTERN Police District is still looking for one of its own, a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics team who was allegedly abducted three days ago. SP02 Mario Salonga said the search for P01 Casen Ote has led the victim's wife Lawan Bae and investigators to various police agencies to check whether Ote had been arrested or invited for questioning. Salonga said that he does not believe the eight men who abducted Ote wanted to kill him, because the suspects could have done so the moment they blocked his vehicle a little past midnight on Sunday. Police said the family had not received any ransom demand for Ote's release. The wife said that Ote has no known enemies and is not wealthy. *Leila Salaverria*

2 cabs, 2 robberies

IN A SPAN of 30 minutes, taxi drivers Renato San Juan and Rommel Agbanlog lost their earnings allegedly to the same group of robbers in the same place yesterday morning. Western Police District lawmen reported that San Juan, 46, of Pandacan Manila, lost P1,700 and a watch to four men armed with knives at 4:35 a.m. on Inviernes Street in Pandacan. The four men allegedly pretended to be passengers and then threatened the driver if he would not hand over his money. At 5 a.m., Agbanlog, of Plaridel, Bulacan, also fell prey to the suspects, who took the victim's P2,700. *Leila Salaverria*

MMDA: Days of number-coding scheme numbered

By Margaux Ortiz

THE NUMBER coding for buses may be on its way out, but not within the next two months.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday agreed to do away with the number coding but on one condition: The single dispatch system or Organized Edsa Bus Route must first be perfected.

Bus operators have begun clamoring for the scrapping of the coding scheme following the initial success of the single dispatch system last month.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando agreed to eventually scrap the number coding for buses during yesterday's meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo and bus operators in Makati City.

But he stressed, "We need the cooperation of the bus operators in making a new system work."

"We think the permanent lifting of the number coding would enable us to earn more," said Claire de la Fuente, Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association president.

Another group of bus operators, the Northeast Manila Bus Operators Group (Nembog), echoed the position of De la Fuente.

"We have been requesting for this because we believe the single dispatch system will serve the purpose of controlling the number of buses on Edsa," Nembog spokesperson Gavin Peñalosa said.

Peñalosa told reporters last week that operators had been trying hard to keep up with the Metro Rail Transit, which has emerged as the commuters' preferred mode of transport.

During the meeting at the MMDA building, Fernando said the transport groups also brought up concerns over towing operations in Metro Manila and the single-ticketing issue.

The MMDA chair said the issues would be resolved during the Metro Manila Council meeting next week.

Fund lack stops DepEd drug testing

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE CONTROVERSIAL drug testing on school campuses will not start this month because Malacañang has not released the P3 million for the project, according to the Department of Education (DepEd).

The money is needed to buy the re-agent that will test a urine sample for drugs.

Malacañang was supposed to order the release of the funds to the Department of Health (DOH), which will conduct a pilot drug testing in Metro Manila schools in cooperation with the DepEd.

"The pilot test for the National Capital Region would start as soon as the P3 million is released," said Nieves Pepito, head of the DepEd's National Drug Education Program.

The Dangerous Drug Board finalized the guidelines for the random drug test on college and high school students last July 25.

The pilot test was supposed to start in the first week of September. After that, the DepEd and the DOH would take the random drug testing to campuses.

According to Pepito, the Palace has not replied to a request to release the funds.

Jinggoy says he won't fly the coop

By Philip Tubeza

CLAIMING that he is not a flight risk, former San Juan Mayor Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada is asking the Supreme Court to dismiss the government's motion to have his bail cancelled.

"At this point, there is absolutely no claim by petitioner, one way or another, that respondent Estrada has or exhibit any tendency to flee despite the opportunity to do so," said Estrada's five-page comment.

In a petition for certiorari, the prosecution panel on the plunder case against Jinggoy and his father former President Joseph Estrada, asked the high tribunal in July to overturn the Sandiganbayan's resolution granting him bail.

The prosecution argued that the anti-graft court did so "with grave abuse of discretion, amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction."

The Sandiganbayan allowed Estrada to post bail on March 5. On May 30, it threw out a motion to reverse the ruling.

But the younger Estrada said there was no abuse in the Sandiganbayan's decision to grant him bail.

He said the government was unable to show that the resolution was reached in "a very capricious, whimsical, arbitrary or despotic manner."

Jinggoy argued that the Sandiganbayan "discussed exhaustively, intelligently and logically" before allowing him to post bail.

UP professor, 3 journalists charged with libel, post bail

THREE journalists who have warrants of arrest for a libel suit yesterday presented themselves to Senior Supt. Elmo San Diego, chief of the Quezon City Hall Complex Police Office.

Danilo Luis Mariano, editor in chief of abscbnnews.com, Carlos Conde, New York Times correspondent, and Leti Boniol, INQUIRER desk editor, were among nine persons ordered arrested in connection with a libel case which the Lapanday Agricultural Development Corp. (Ladeco) filed before a Davao City Regional Trial Court.

Davao RTC Judge Virginia G. Hofilena-Europa issued the arrest warrants.

Ladeco is a banana plantation in Davao owned by Department of Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo.

Mariano was editor in chief of the defunct Philippine Post when the story about the effect of pesticides in Ladeco's plantation came out on Aug. 6, 2000.

Conde was the Nation editor of the Post when the article came out.

On Monday, Quezon City policemen arrested Romeo Quijano, M.D., professor of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, and his daughter Ilang-ilang, reporter of Pinoy Weekly.

The Quijanos wrote the article "Poisoned Lives" that described the effects of pesticide poisoning on Davao del Sur villagers based on their interviews and studies.

The case was dismissed by the Davao City prosecutor's office in 2001, but was appealed by Ladeco, according to Ilang-ilang.

On July 6, 2003, the Department of Justice reversed the dismissal order.

Also included in the warrant of arrest were Samuel Senoren (Philippine Media Post), Nick Legaspi (Malaya desk editor), Benito Brizuela and Ma. Anicia Mejia.

The Quijanos, Boniol, Mariano and Conde have each posted bail of P10,000. *Tina Santos*

Former Estrada aide gets death for kidnapping

By Luige del Puerto

A FORMER close-in security of then Vice President Joseph Estrada was handed the death penalty yesterday for kidnapping the daughter of a dermatologist in 2001.

Former Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales, 38, has also been ordered by Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Judge Amalia Dy to pay the family of Dr. Vinson Pineda, owner of the Pineda Derm Clinic chain, P11 million in unrecovered ransom money, P2 million in moral damages and P250,000 in other losses.

Two of Mostrales' companions, Diosdado Santos and Ronnie Tan, were also handed the death penalty, but the two had reportedly been killed in an encounter with policemen in Cavite.

On Nov. 12, 2001, Angela Dee Pineda, then 14, and her siblings, were on their way to the Tabernacle Academy in San Juan when a red Revo Toyota cut the path of their Starex van at the corner of Calderon and Pilar Streets.

She was released 26 days later after her family paid P11 million in ransom.

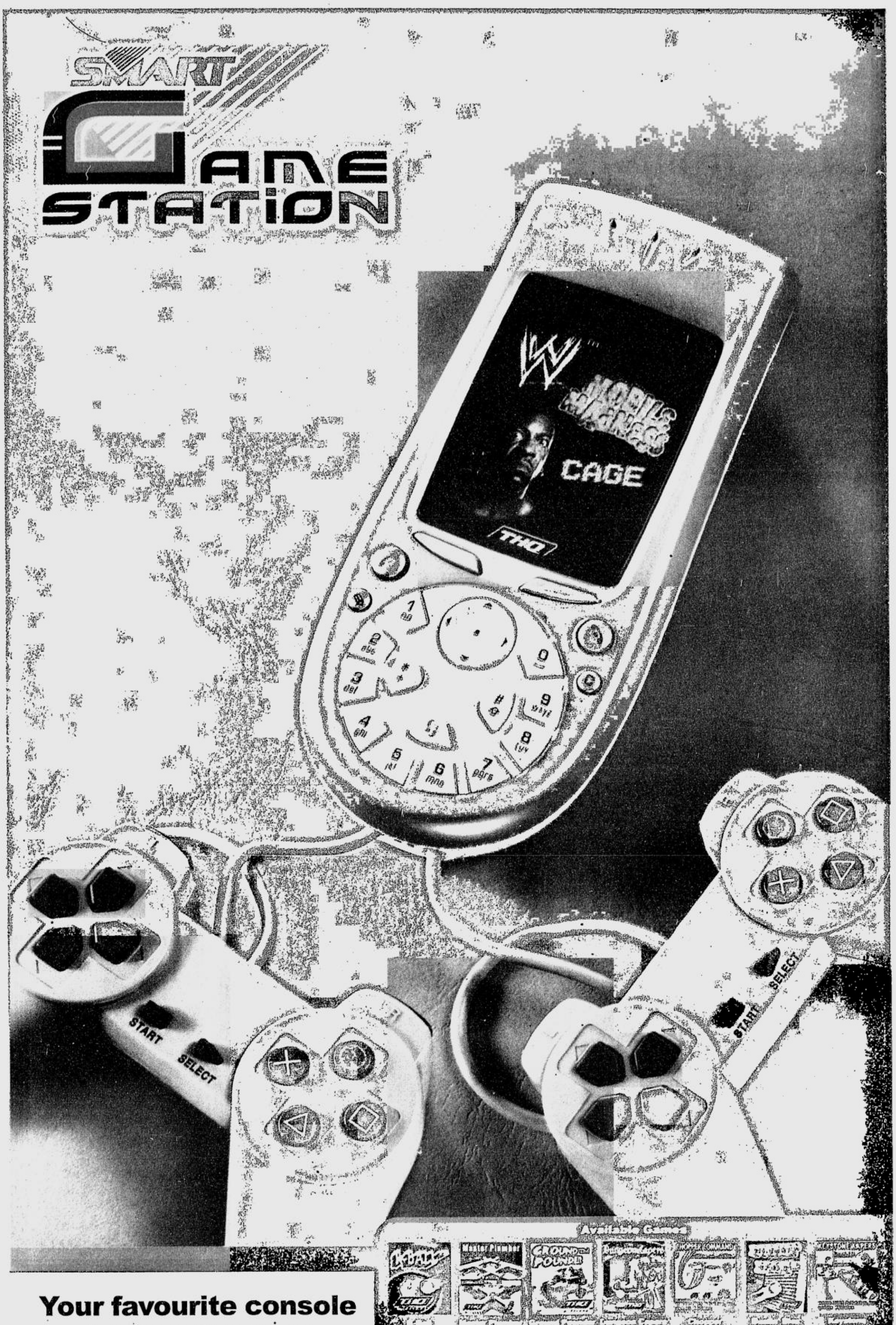
During trial, Pineda family driver, Herminio Altarejos, and another driver, Alex Afable, positively identified Mostrales as among the four armed men who abducted Angela.

Dy threw out Mostrales' alibi that he was in his hometown in Umingan, Pangasinan, at the time of the kidnapping.

Mostrales became a member of then Vice President Estrada's security team in 1997.

When Estrada became president, he also served under the Malacañang Security Force until the former actor was ousted in a popular revolt in 2001.

SMART GAME STATION



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Gin Kings go for 3-0 vs Thunder

STEPHEN Padilla of Alaska (right) avoids fouling Tim McClary of Coca-Cola in their game Sunday. The Tigers won, 103-82. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

By June Navarro

IT'S BEEN a long time since crowd-favorite Barangay Ginebra won its first three games in a conference.

The Gin Kings try to duplicate that feat they last achieved in the 1997 All Filipino Cup when they take on the Red Bull Barako Thunder today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

Ginebra is actually seeking the lead in Group B when it plays Red Bull (1-1) at 7 p.m.

Talk 'N Text and FedEx, winners in their last games after dropping their initial assignments, collide at 5 p.m.

Red Bull is expected to provide tough opposition for Ginebra, which had luck on its side in its first two wins. The Gin Kings won their first game over an import-less San Miguel Beermen and needed the heroics of the comebacking Jun Limpot to down the injury-riddled Purefoods squad in their second outing.

Group A: Sta. Lucia 2-0, FedEx 1-1, Alaska 0-2, San Miguel 0-2, Purefoods 0-2
Group B: Ginebra 2-0, Coca-Cola 2-0, Shell 1-1, Talk 'N Text 1-1, Red Bull 1-1

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports*)
5 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

The Thunder showed tremendous promise in their debut against FedEx although they faltered against the Phone Pals in their next game.

The Gin Kings, then mentored by Sen. Robert Jaworski, could only finish second behind Purefoods in the 1997 All Filipino but they captured the Governors Cup in the next conference, which proved to be Ginebra's last.

Now, the Gin Kings are still finding the right chemistry under Allan Caidic, who will rely again on Limpot, Eric Menk, Mark Caguioa and import Ricky Price.

With Terrence Shannon asserting himself, the Express bounced back from their loss to Red Bull by routing the Beermen.

FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren should get sharp numbers from Jerry Codiñera, Yancy De Ocampo, Vergel Meneses, Renren Ritualo and Roger Yap for the Express to neutralize the Phone Pals' frontline advantage.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games-Celtics vs Bucks, Game 4, 1987 Eastern Semifinals; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—The Boston trio of Bird, Parish and McHale take on Milwaukee's Sidney Moncrief and Ricky Pierce in this classic playoff encounter.

NBA Summer League-Rockets vs Lakers; 10:30 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports

FIBA Euro Basket; 8 p.m.; Solar Sports-Europe's players prove they've got skills.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Palaro, Mindanao games may be held in same week

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE 2003 Palarong Pambansa and the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games (MFG) may be staged within the same week in October at separate venues.

Under the plan announced by PSC chair Eric Buhain yesterday, the nine-day MFG would start on Oct. 17 in Mati, Davao Oriental to mark the municipality's 100th foundation, with the Palaro kicking off its eight-day schedule on Oct. 21 in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

The Games will overlap by two days to allow for the transfer of specialized equipment from Mati to the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod. Travel by land between both sites is 14-16 hours.

"That is the only win-win solution we can think of," said Buhain during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion, adding that he would present the plan to Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo this week.

"If we hold it in November it might fall on the Ramadan," Buhain said. "And the President had instructed us to hold the Palaro before the MFG."

Dimaporo had earlier asked the PSC to move the Palaro from Oct. 5-12 to a later date coinciding with the student-athletes' semestral break to ensure full participation for the Games.

The PSC chief said there's no problem with funding.

Do your share, Eric challenges SEAG bets

NOW it's your turn.

This was the challenge hurled yesterday by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain to the more than 400 athletes who will see action in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games on Dec. 5-12.

With practically everything the athletes needed all in place, Buhain said the athletes should realize that the ball, so to speak, is in their hands and the whole nation will be watching closely how they will fare in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

"In all honesty, I believe that athletes now realize that what's happening to them is unprecedented, something which has not happened in the past," said Buhain, referring to the recent pledging session initiated by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo which yielded close to P24 million for the training of SEAG bets.

Buhain, who had predicted between 40 and 60 golds for the RP bets, appeared as guest in the PSA Forum along with Rod Nepomuceno, project director of the FG Foundation which led the fund-raising.

The funds raised are going straight to the athletes, reiterated Buhain, who added that the athletes themselves will liquidate the amount to the respective donors.

"Not a single centavo went to the foundation because all checks were payable to the PSC," said Nepomuceno. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Pagunsan 3 shots ahead

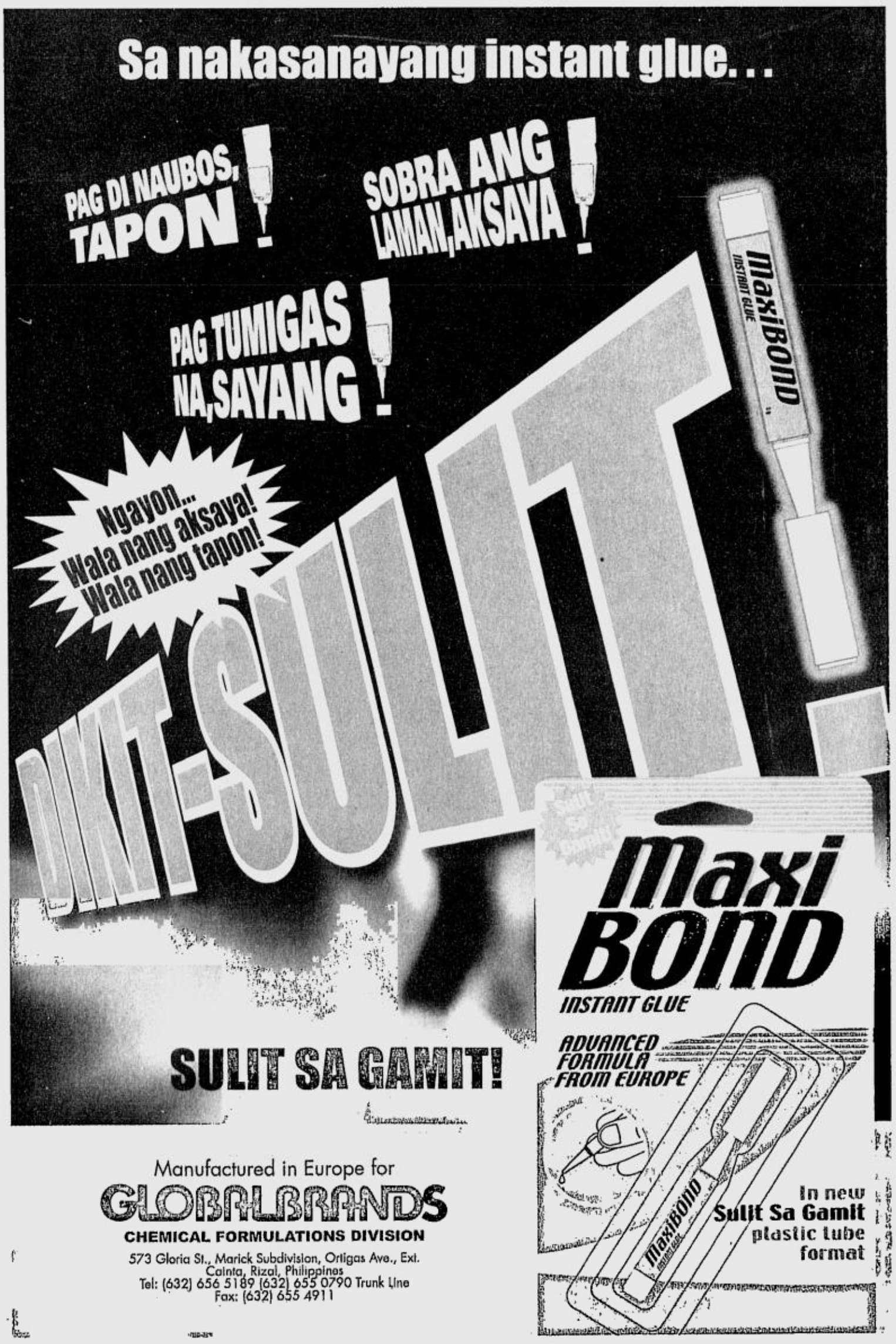
SILANG, Cavite—Juvic Pagunsan shot a birdie-less one-over-par 73 yesterday but still widened his lead to three strokes halfway through the 2nd Riviera Open amateur golf championship at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Pagunsan, who helped the Philippine team clinch a tie for fifth place in the Nomura Cup last week in Australia, had 17 pars and bogey on the 11th to post a 36-hole total of 142. He shot a 69 Monday.

Marvin Dumandan, the Riviera bet seen as the biggest threat to Pagunsan, matched Pagunsan's day-best 73 to tie Korean Lee Seong-ki at 145. Lee shot a 75.

The fancied Jerome Delariarte failed to gain ground on his national teammates as the back-to-back national amateur champ went bogey-double bogey on 6 and 7 en route to a 75.

But Delariarte still moved up to a share of fifth, from 11th, with Dave Hernandez (78) at 153.



Stags, Knights try to forge title clash

DEFENDING champion San Sebastian is a hands-down favorite while the odds are against Letran when they try to forge a title showdown with victories against separate foes today in the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—CSB vs Mapua (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Letran vs Mapua (Srs)
4 p.m.—SSC-R vs JRU (Srs)

The SSC Stags, gunning for a third straight championship, expect easy sailing against the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers in their semifinal encounter at 4 p.m. The Stags handily beat their Mandaluyong-based rivals two times in the eliminations.

But it's the other way around in the case of the Letran Knights, who will face the Mapua Cardinals earlier at 2 p.m. The Knights are 0-2 in their head-to-head duel against the Cardinals this season.

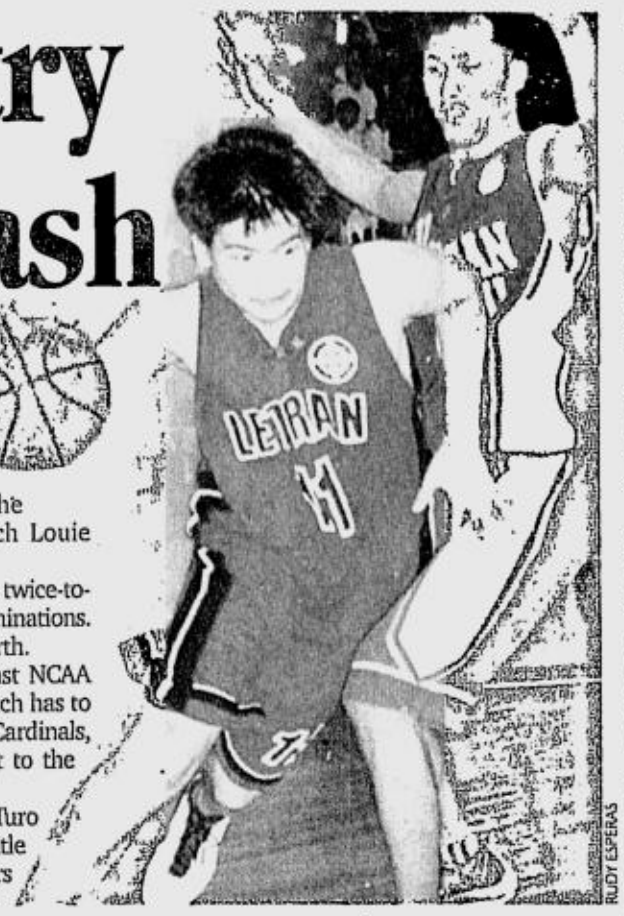
"We're lucky to have a twice-to-beat advantage. But we can't rely on it because if they (Cardinals) win, the momentum will be on their side in the knockout match," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

The Knights and the Stags gained the twice-to-beat privilege by finishing 1-2 in the eliminations. Jose Rizal finished third and Mapua fourth.

Alas steered the Knights to their last NCAA crown in 1999 and the soft-spoken coach has to weave his old magic to get past the Cardinals, who are considered the biggest threat to the Stags' championship bid.

No less than San Sebastian coach Turo Valenzona acknowledged Mapua's title potential by opting to meet the Bombers instead of the Cardinals in the semifinals.

June Navarro



RUDY ESPERAS
LETRAN's Jonathan Pinera drives past PCU's Carlos Cecilia.

Paragua, Sanchez 2-3 in Madrid rapid chess

PARAGUA

SANCHEZ

FILIPINO Grandmaster-candidate Mark Paragua and IM-candidate Joseph Sanchez finished second and third, respectively, in the Sergio Guillen rapid chess championship in Madrid, Spain over the weekend.

Both Filipinos tallied 7.5 points in nine games, the same output of English GM Bogdan Lalic, who eventually won the tournament via a tiebreak.

The 19-year-old Paragua split the point with Lalic while Sanchez defeated GM Elizbar Ubilava of Georgia in the crucial final round.

The event, which lured seven GMs and 15 IMs, was a side event of the Open International de Ajedrez VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea chess championship in the city.

In the main tournament, Paragua defeated Ukrainian IM Sasha Belezky in 31 moves of the Dutch Defense Monday night to share the lead with Sanchez and five others after eight rounds.

Paragua and Sanchez now have 6.5 points each, in a tie with Lalic, top seed IM Jan Gustafsson of Germany, IM Javier Moreno Carnero and Fide Master Santiago Roa Alonso of Spain and IM Salvador Alonso of Argentina.

The 32-year-old Sanchez settled for a fighthing draw with Carnero after a marathon 55 moves of a Sicilian Defense-Pelikan Variation.

"Talagang pinaghandaan namin si Belezky, *kasi alam niya na ang* pet line ni Mark ay King's Indian Defense. *Pero nasorpresa siya sa* Dutch Defense *ni* Mark," said Sanchez, Paragua's coach-trainer, in a message he sent by email. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

The sorriest sports structure in the world

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

YOU have a big problem!

What? I asked the balding senior citizen with a quiet smile. He had just left the Makati Med after a weeklong confinement.

You've got to help solve the problems of Philippine sports.

What do you mean? I asked again. They needed the funds and they had no less than First Gentleman Mike Arroyo as top fundraiser, they could not have tapped anybody greater when it comes to generating big funds.

That's the problem, the big funds, he said.

You mean these funds have been kept in a nameless bank?

No, no, this is unlike that thing about Jose Pidal, the senior citizen explained. The problem is our sports leaders, they believe that all they needed was enough money in order to sustain a successful international campaign, like this one in Vietnam.

We were all made to believe that, I said, we've got to take what our sports leaders preach.

***

This is not a make-believe conversation. I chanced upon this fellow, a keen supporter-critic of national sports development the other day. Please listen, as he had many salient points to raise, like:

There's nothing wrong with the practice of raising funds for international sports competitions. Athletes, no doubt, need all the material support they could get in order to enhance performance. It's, however, wrong to assume that gold medals could be won mainly through sufficient funding alone. The main defect of the national sports thrust in international competitions is that the government, with the support of private institutions, has been funding a faulty system. It's a system that keeps repeating the same old mistakes. Nothing has changed. There were enough funds but international stints by our national delegations, to the Olympics, the Asian Games, and even the lowly Southeast Asian Games, have perennially degenerated into glaring diagnoses of national sporting ills. In short, our competitors always come short of the target.

***

Everybody knows that, I told him, but how could we remedy this perennial discrepancy?

The senior citizen continued to explain: A deeper study would show that Filipino athletes, as a whole, always missed their winning goals because they were improperly equipped. For samplers, there are the members of the national basketball team who could not operate efficiently with both feet; they basically could take off with only the right foot, when it's now the international trend to attack using the so-called wrong foot, as exemplified by the national cagers of China and displayed to near perfection by the likes of Michael Jordan and Hakeem Olajuwon in the NBA. Another sampler involves the national boxers, perennial hopes for the first Olympic gold medal, who continue to slap their punches from the shoulders; when the win-win style is to score clean by launching blows like a spear from the diaphragm, near the navel, the accepted seat of man's main power. Anyway, it was first considered a joke when, during a visit of the Brazilian national basketball team, the visitors noted the handsome but bulging muscles of Robert Jaworski who, the visitors surmised, could have easily slammed the ball into the goal, if not for his "swimmer muscles." All told, it's easy to conclude that the Filipino athlete does train hard, he strives to develop a strong physique, but he often comes short of expectations because he develops the wrong muscles, in the process ending up using a "faulty launching pad."

***

You mean we've been using a wrong process of training all these years?

Definitely, he said, it's often a hit-and-miss thing hereabouts; unlike with regional sports power China. It's no secret that China, other than rely on a wide mass base and a strict socialist sports structure, is backed solidly by a tested development and training program.

Don't we have anything of this sort here at home? I inquired.

You can see for yourself, there has hardly been any significant developments. The faults, the losing style of past competitions are carried over to the next foreign expeditions. It's a pity that the Chinese model, also being used to the hilt in Australia, to name only one other successful sporting nation, has been regularly and sickeningly overlooked by our sports leaders, mainly the powerful figures brought to office by Malacañang.

As one sports columnist aptly put it, "we are mired in habits that retard our growth instead of elevate it." This could be blamed mainly on the sorry practice of our top national leaders, the President in particular, of appointing inexperienced managers to run national sporting affairs when the urgent call is for an honest, dedicated, fully trained professional sports development expert to be named to the sensitive post.

***

So how do we save the national contingent from impending doom in the Vietnam Southeast Games?

If they're serious and sincere about improvement, they've got to make a great sacrifice. Maybe cut down the delegation to half, or if not send only a token group.

What for?

Well, all the money that could be saved should be spent to restructure the national sports development program. They could try to set up an academy to serve this purpose.

That's impossible, I explained, because if they cut the delegation to half, a lot of people would lose money.

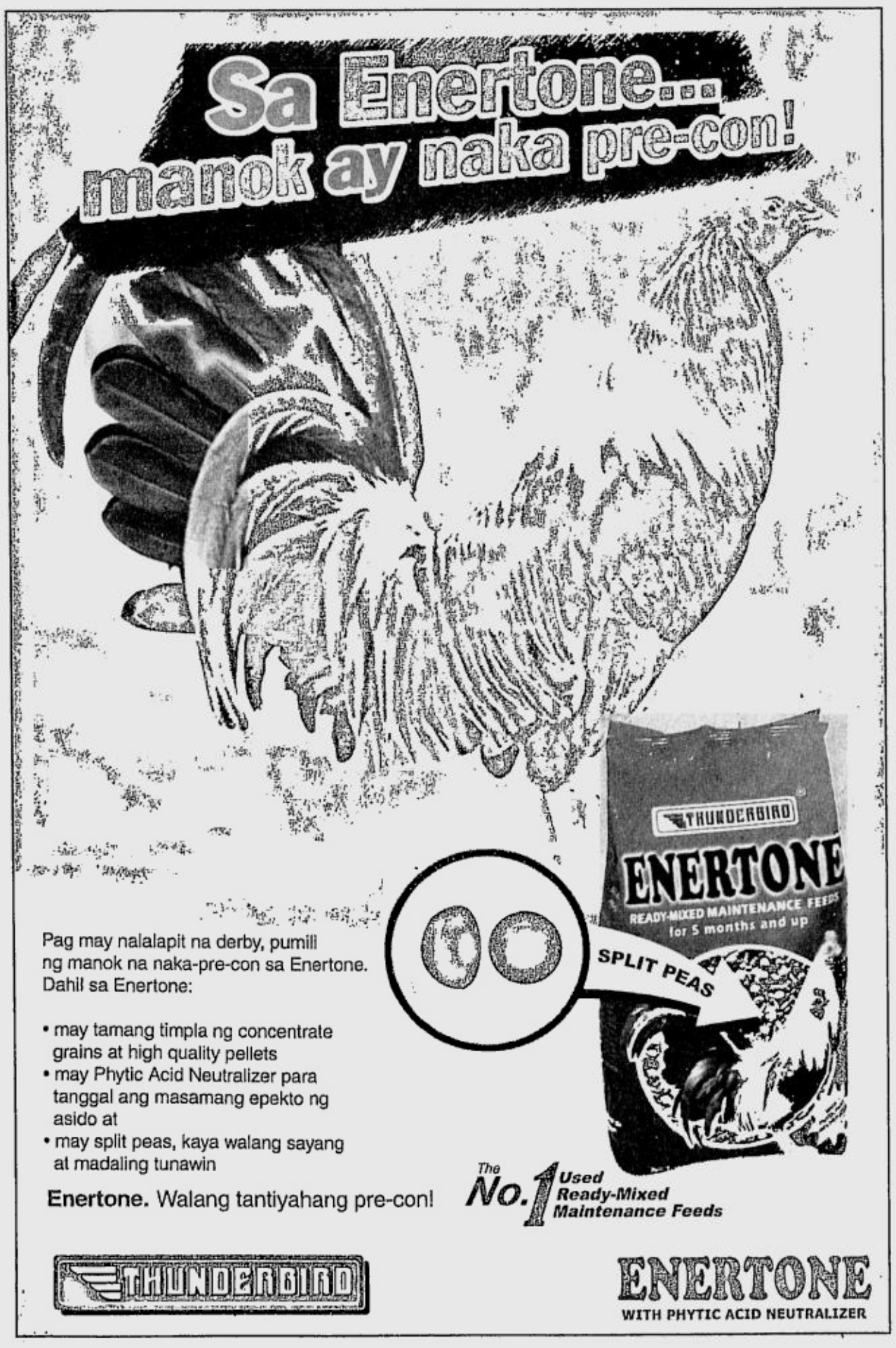
What? Are you crazy? The country should be able to save, instead.

Come on, I said, you're missing the point. If they cut the delegation to half, that would mean a hefty loss on the part of the operators who do the travel arrangements for the national delegation.

Oh, I see, sorry, I was too ignorant, the senior citizen said, unsmiling.

Then what of the uniforms, the luggage, and all the other accoutrements where the usual percentage goes to the ones who formalize the deals?

Sorry, the poor fellow said, I never thought it was this complicated. He appeared vanquished, totally discouraged.



SPORTSWATCH

Sparks make finals

LOS ANGELES—Lisa Leslie hit a tiebreaking jumper with 9.8 seconds remaining and a pair of free throws with 6 seconds left to send the Los Angeles Sparks to the WNBA Finals with a 66-63 victory Monday night over the Sacramento Monarchs. Leslie finished with 26 points for the two-time defending WNBA champions, who will host the Detroit Shock starting Friday night in a best-of-3 series for the title. The coaches are former NBA opponents Bill Laimbeer of Detroit and Michael Cooper of Los Angeles. Leslie's short jumper from the baseline made it 64-62. DeMya Walker pulled the Monarchs within a point by making the first of two free throws. *AP*

Serbia five advances

BORAS, Sweden—Sacramento Kings star Peja Stojakovic was helped off the court in the first quarter after injuring his left ankle. Luckily for Serbia and Montenegro, Marko Jaric was still there. Jaric, a Los Angeles Clippers guard, scored 18 points Monday as the defending champions beat Turkey 80-76 to reach the quarterfinals of the European Basketball Championship. Russia, Israel and Italy also advanced to the last eight, where they join Lithuania, France, Spain and Greece. The latter four won their round-robin groups with 3-0 records and gained automatic quarterfinal berths. *AP*

Zobel, Xavier XI shine

DE La Salle Zobel and Xavier School scored lopsided wins last weekend to remain as top contenders in the NCR (National Capital Region) Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament. The DLSZ booters ripped San Beda, 15-0, while the Xavier boys zapped Tondo High, 10-1. Rafael Ferrer and Andrew Chan scored three goals apiece and Michael Kleimer added two as Xavier raced to its second straight win in the tourney sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Coca-Cola Export Phils.

Cebu netfest slated

THE THIRD leg of the P1-million Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit gets going Sept. 15-21 at the Xavier Estates and Country Club courts in Cagayan de Oro City. Cash prizes at stake are P30,000 for the singles champion and P17,000 for the doubles winners. Players who wish to join may contact Loida Mallare (Philta office) at 525-6434 or tournament referee Boy Leonora at 0917-6965454. Meanwhile, the P100,000 Gen. Alberto Olario Open Tennis Championships is slated Sept. 22-28 at the Luz Village Tennis Club in Butuan City.

Sepak takraw tilt up

THE 3RD National Open men's and women's sepak takraw championships and the 21-years-old and below competition will be held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, on Sept. 22 to 28. Forty-six teams from all over the country have been invited by the Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association (Pasta) to join the two-level tournament which is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and the city government of Puerto Princesa under Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn. The Puerto Princesa squad will defend the women's open and 21-years-old-and-below titles.

Ucap derby today

THE UNITED Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) will stage its first ever derby at the Araneta Coliseum today via the Firebird 7-Stag Derby. Scheduled are 63 fights in the three-stag elimination round, followed by the championship on Friday, Sept. 12. Invited by derby host Biboy enriquez are well-known cocker-sportsmen headed by last week's Araneta 7-Stag champions Danding Cojuangco and Butch Macasaet, Patrick Antonio, Peping Cojuangco, Chongkee Uy, Rep. Lawrence Wacnang, Nene Aguilar and Gerry Ramos, among others. For other details, please contact 911-2928 or 911-3101 (loc. 8351 or 8357).

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Race 4--1. Yonder Girl 2. Pangako Sa 'Yo/Mutya ng Nayon 3. Song Bird

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Race 9--1. You and Me 2. Rosa Valentina 3. Simply Great 4. Jerold's Dream 5. Master Strategist 6. Princess Dancer

Octoberfest in Manila

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT'S official.

Four of the world's toughest pool pros—two from the United States and two from Europe—will be arriving next month to play against the Philippines' cream of the crop on Oct. 28-31, billiards benefactor Putch Puyat said in an interview yesterday.

"We are hosting this event featuring Earl Strickland and Johnny Archer of the US and reigning Cardiff World pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany and Mika Immonen of Finland in response to the popular clamor to stage this star-studded affair here," said the president of Puyat Sports, the country's pool pioneer.

In the Philippine team—based on their world rankings—are Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Canada-based Filipino sensation Alex Pagulayan, who lost to Hohmann in the finals of this year's World Pool Championship.

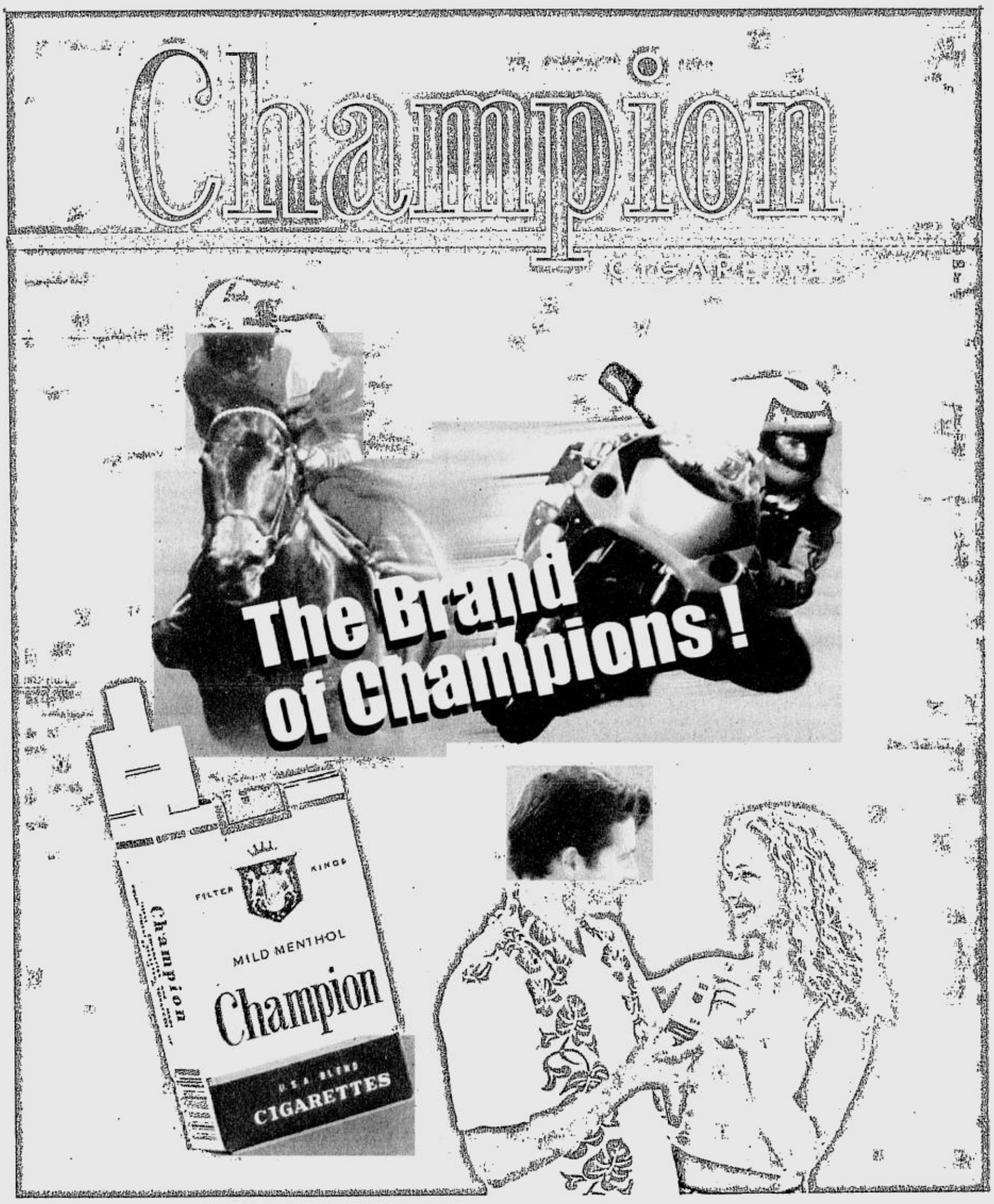
"The fourth and last slot will be decided after an elimination tournament to give the other Filipino players the chance of competing for fame and fortune," Puyat added. The other notable local players are Warren Kiamco, Nickoy Lining, Lee Van Corteza, Leonardo Andam, Dennis Orcullo, Rodolfo Luat, Ramil Gallego, Venancio Tanio and Antonio Gabica.

Known as "The Pearl" in the international billiards scene, the fast-talking Strickland is a many-time world 9-ball champion. A pool player of more than 30 years, Strickland beat Bustamante last year in the finals of the World Pool Championship. As billiards columnist Hal Mix once wrote, "When Strickland's breaking is at his best, he has the uncanny ability to not only pocket a ball or two on a break, but to have the next ball fall in excellent position on the table, driving many an opponent to consider the use of very strong language."

On the other hand, Archer needs no further introduction being a frequent Manila visitor.

Next to Reyes, Archer is the most feared player in recent billiards history. A three-time World 9-Ball champion (1992, 1993 and 1995) and US Open winner (1999), this native of Atlanta, Georgia, is best remembered when he strung up an incredible 13 consecutive racks against Bustamante in a match in Los Angeles in 1995, the year he was voted Player of the Year by the US-based Pro Billiards Tour Association.

Mighty Mika Immonen, now pushing 30, made sports history in 2001 when he won the World 9-Ball Championship, beating 1996 champion Ralf "The Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, 17-10, in a nail-biting final. His dramatic victory returned the world pool title to Europe, a feat which 26-year-old Hohmann duplicated this year.



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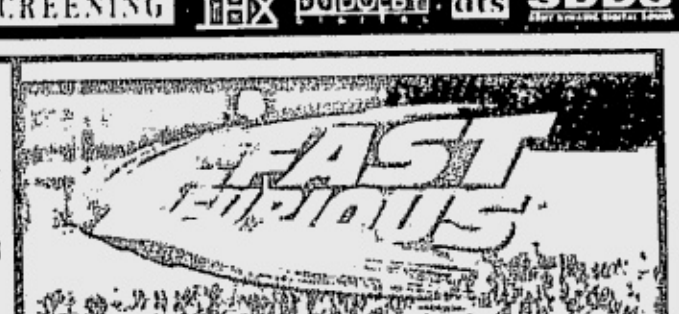

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Pianist, singer and songwriter Brickman returns to Manila to perform at Ayala Malls on Sept. 11, 7 p.m., at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati; Sept. 12, 7 p.m., Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center, and Sept. 13, 7 p.m., Food and Entertainment Center, Ayala Center Cebu.

Admission is free.

Brickman will be joined by special guests Anna Fegi on Sept. 11 and 12, and Rachel Alejandro on Sept. 13.

Brickman released his new album from BMG Records Pilipinas, "Love Songs and Lullabies," which includes the hit ballad "You" sung by Jane Krakowski of "Ally McBeal," and the new single "One Dream" by Megastar Sharon Cuneta.

SHOW TIME

'Ka' Roger takes the road . . .

From page A31

Nashville, after his solo debut seven years ago. That "Ka Roger" album was recorded and released under Tiger Records, also distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas). "There was nothing spiritual or gospel about it. I think it did quite well."

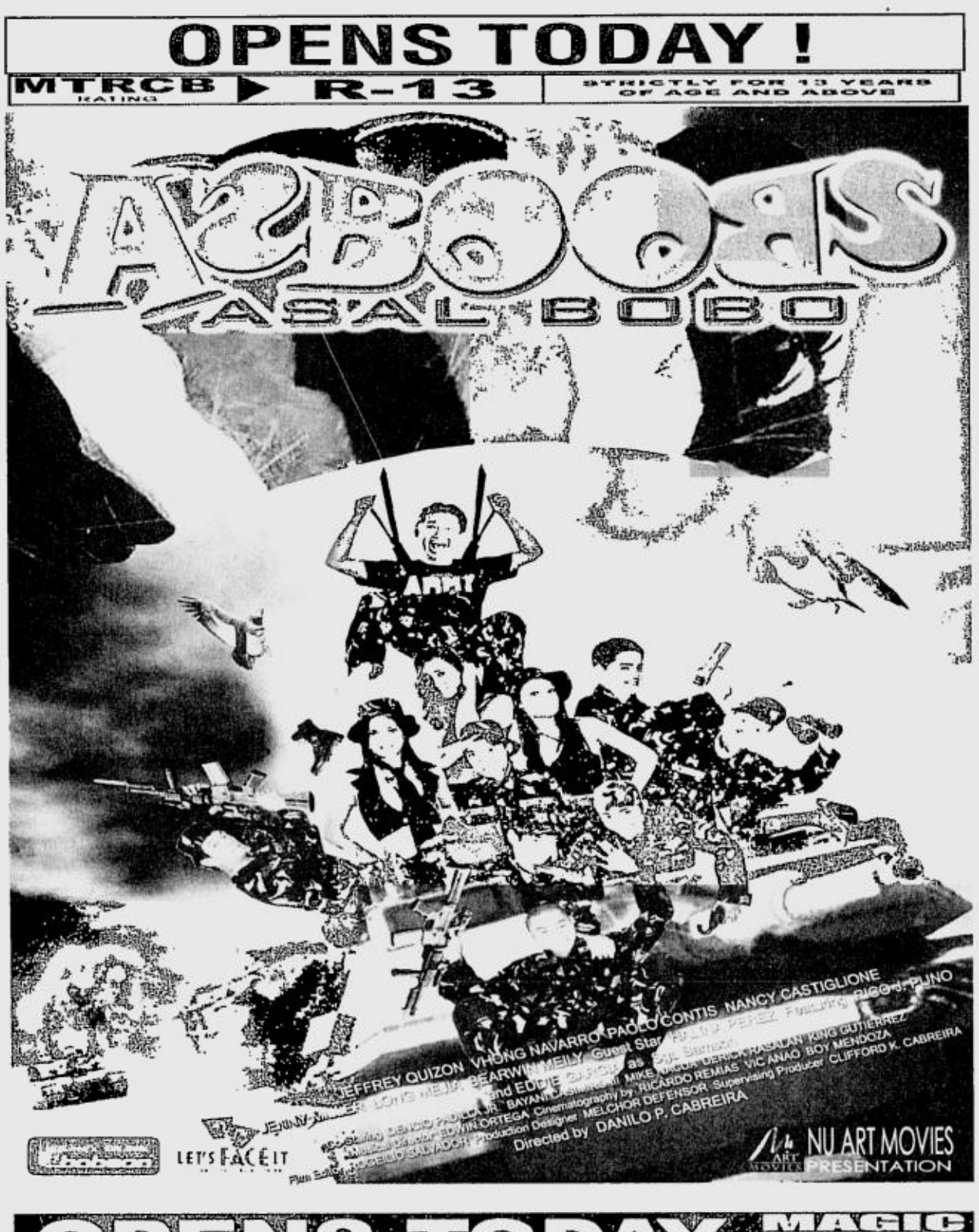
His current album is a departure from the previous one thematically: "This one really is a spiritual album, it's about the Gospel message, about the journey through life. It's an album of hope. It's a happy one, about being on the right road."

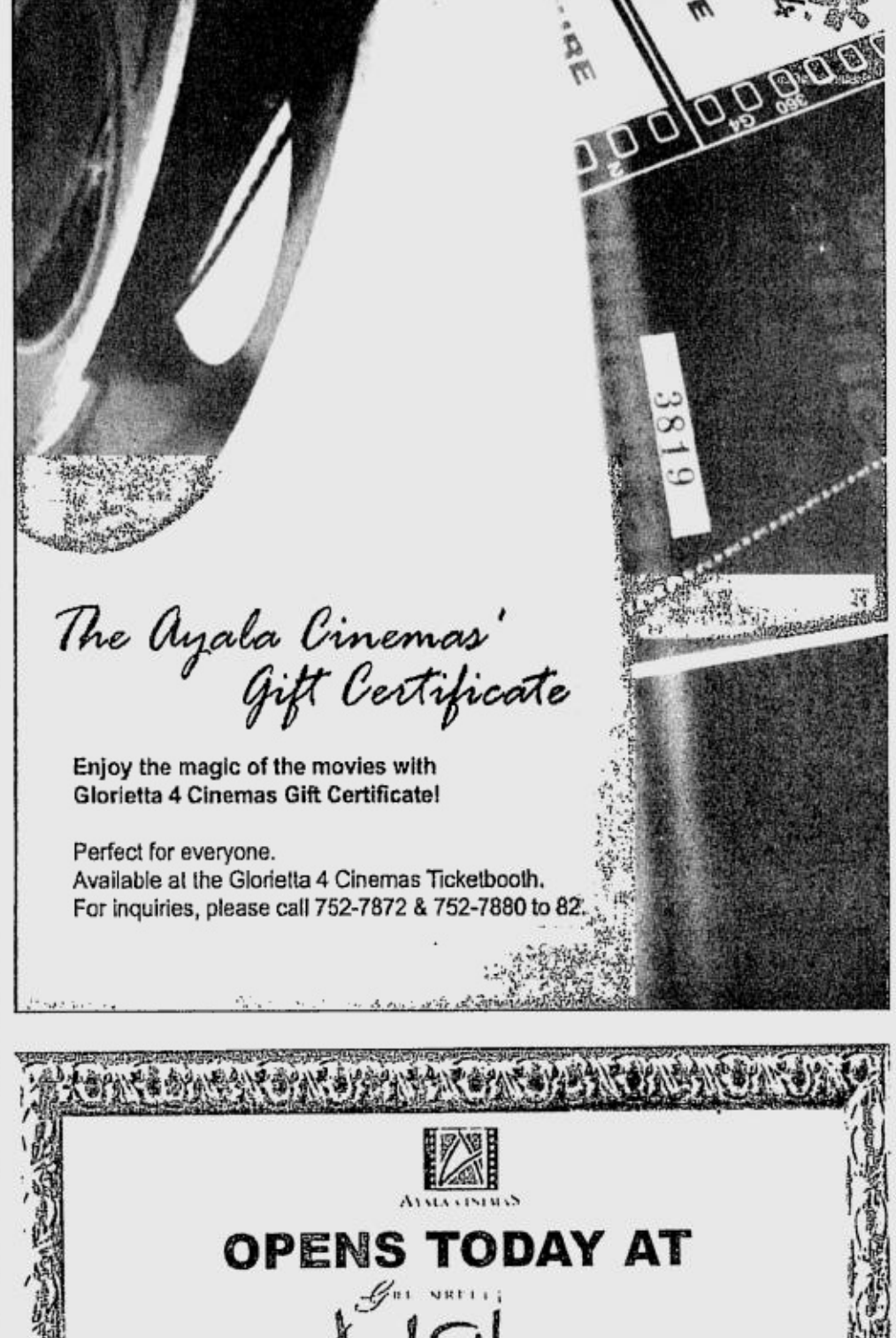
Godliness

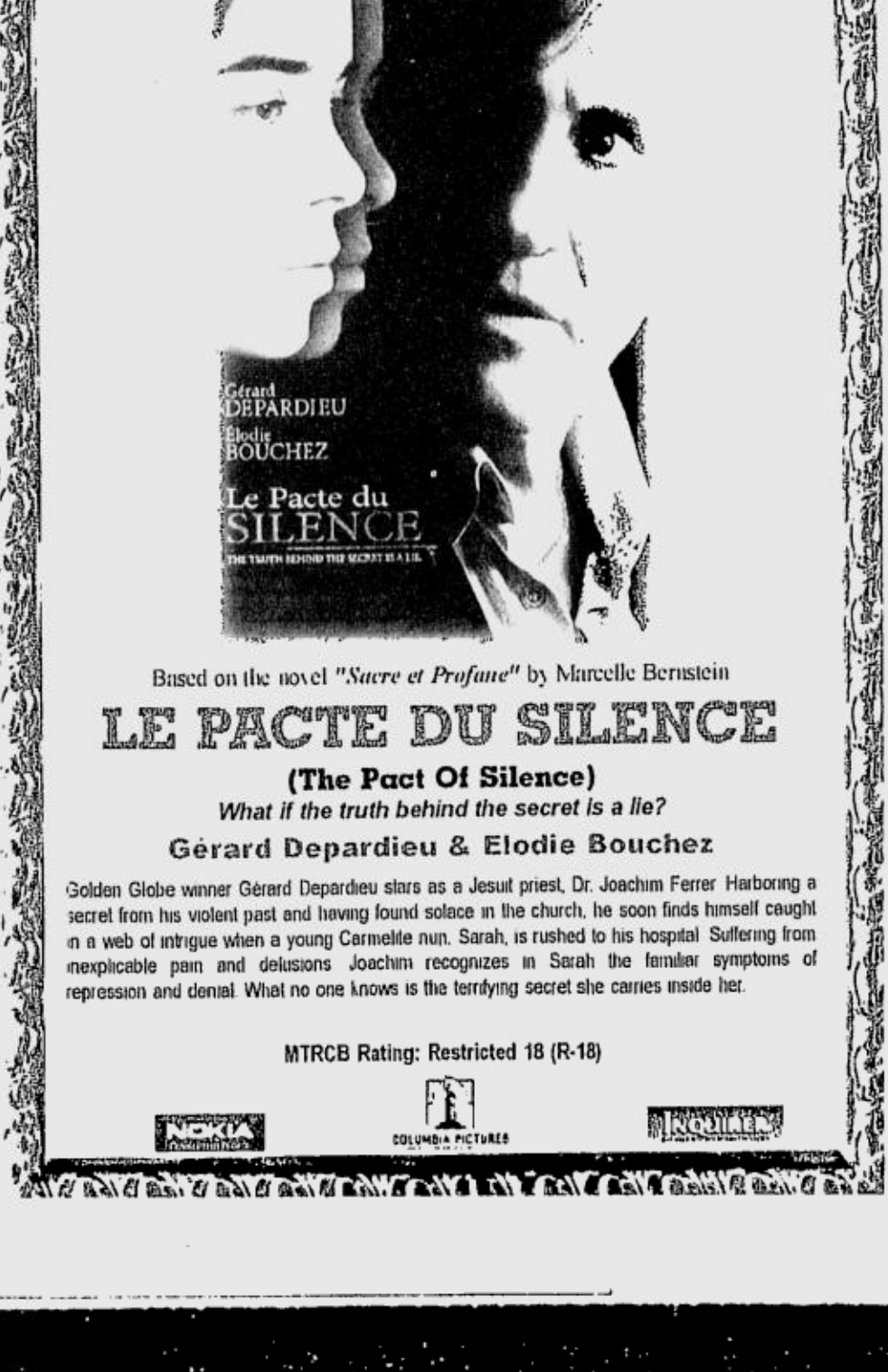
"Travellers in Time" also contains an 11th song, a bonus Christmas track called "Birth in Bethlehem/Take a Look," a new carol blending Celtic influences with contemporary folk music. It uses local ethnic musical instruments.

Tomas did her wifely duty and added about her husband's new effort: "In these turbulent times, I think this album is so timely. In the rush of things, we need to be able to make time out during the day. *Parang* it's a spiritual uplift. *Parang* you can switch off from all the threats and horrors of the world and be close to God, or find the godliness in you by listening to this album.

"I think one of his most beautiful messages is that we are travelers in two eternities (the past and the future)," she added. "*Malalim, eh. Maganda. Ma*-exercise *man lang ang utak natin.*"







Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue

PUDDLE DEEP though the script may be, "S.W.A.T." derives its strength from its actors, including (from left) Smith, Farrel and Jackson.

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

I WAS surprised to find out from the production notes of "S.W.A.T." that the popular '70s TV series on which it is based ran for only 18 months. It certainly seemed longer than that.

I don't remember much about the old S.W.A.T., which stands for the Special Weapons and Tactics division of the Los Angeles Police Department (although we do have our own S.W.A.T. here in the Philippines). I remember neither the plots nor the characters, only two of the actors who starred in it, Steve Forrest and Robert Urich. I don't remember what day it was shown or on what channel.

But I do remember it to be one of those "events" of the week, you know, when the entire family would plop down in front of the TV after dinner and watch the show together. Yes, back in those days, it seemed the family that watched TV together stayed together.

Come to think of it, there probably wasn't much of a choice since most families then only had one TV set. So what program to watch on TV was a collective decision as much as it was an essential one.

In any case, S.W.A.T. was one of those hands-down choices. The moment its catchy theme blasted from our TV set's mono speakers, we'd automatically head off to the living room, much like ducklings following the familiar quacking of the mother duck. (By the way, the movie plays three versions of the S.W.A.T. theme music.)

Happiness

I also remember that the S.W.A.T. team's uniform and the toy replica of their sniper rifles were very popular then, and I didn't stop pestering my mother until she bought me both.

Happiness was indeed much simpler then, but it was just as marketable a commodity.

Anyway, for a child of the '70s, the idea of reviving the old S.W.A.T. for a modern silver screen version sounds like a major coup (and by that, of course, I don't mean the Magdalo kind).

The good news is, in "S.W.A.T." the movie, what's old has been made fine and new. First-time feature filmmaker Clark Johnson and a superlative cast have taken the classic TV cop series, with its familiar genre elements, and turned it into a sleek, accomplished piece of work, meticulously controlled and completely involving.

The film is a satisfying marriage of past and present. And the "wedding service" works perhaps because it lives up to the tradition of having something old (the same TV S.W.A.T. characters), something new (the actors led by Samuel Jackson and Colin Farrell), something borrowed (gun fights, chase scenes et al.), and something blue (the cop uniforms, of course).

Seriously, Johnson's direction elevates "S.W.A.T." above the normal action film. A TV actor-turned TV director of shows like "NYPD Blue," "Homicide" and "The Shield," he knows enough of the cops and criminals theme to make this movie a satisfying venture into that same territory.

The action builds up for a solid two hours until a finale involving a plane, a bridge, and a subway train that results in one of the most vivid shoot-outs ever filmed. In between the bravura action sequences, he paces the movie deftly, and he gets the adrenaline pumping like an oil well.

Ensemble acting

It doesn't even matter that the screenplay is puddle deep. With six S.W.A.T. team members, two major villains and a host of other semi-important bit parts, Johnson chose wisely to keep the character-building information to a minimum. He doesn't spend too much time filling in background for each character. Rather, he focuses on Farrell's Jim Street (the Irish actor gives a watertight performance) and makes his plight the crux of the picture.

Consequently, the film has a running time that doesn't drag for about twice as long as it needs to be, a common and often critical mistake in other action films.

But make no mistake, as competent as the director is, it is the strength of the ensemble acting that is at the core of the film's attraction. Let's face it, the script is not really meant for stunning thespian displays. What it does well, though, is bring to the fore the innate qualities that truly make stars out of the stars of "S.W.A.T."

For instance, Jackson, playing S.W.A.T. team leader Lt. Hondo Harrelson, is able to take another tough-guy role to the requisite heights of formidable cool. LL Cool J, who now prefers to be called James Todd Smith, follows the same school of el macho. And Michelle Rodriguez breathes fire into her role as Chris Sanchez, the only female member of the S.W.A.T. team.

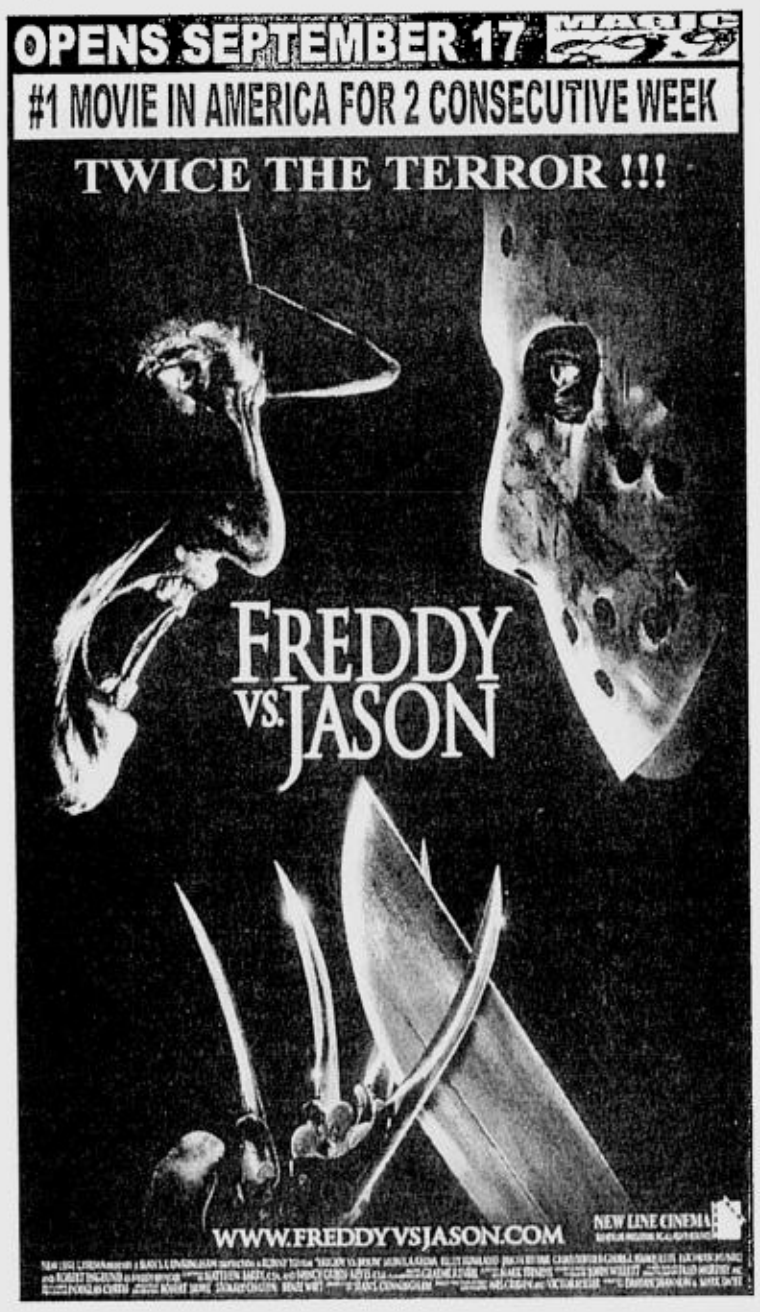
There's something about Rodriguez, perhaps that look that she can box the living daylights out of you before bedding you, that makes her scenes with Farrell sizzle. Which brings to mind, the one thing this movie lacks: a love scene. (A big sigh of regret!)

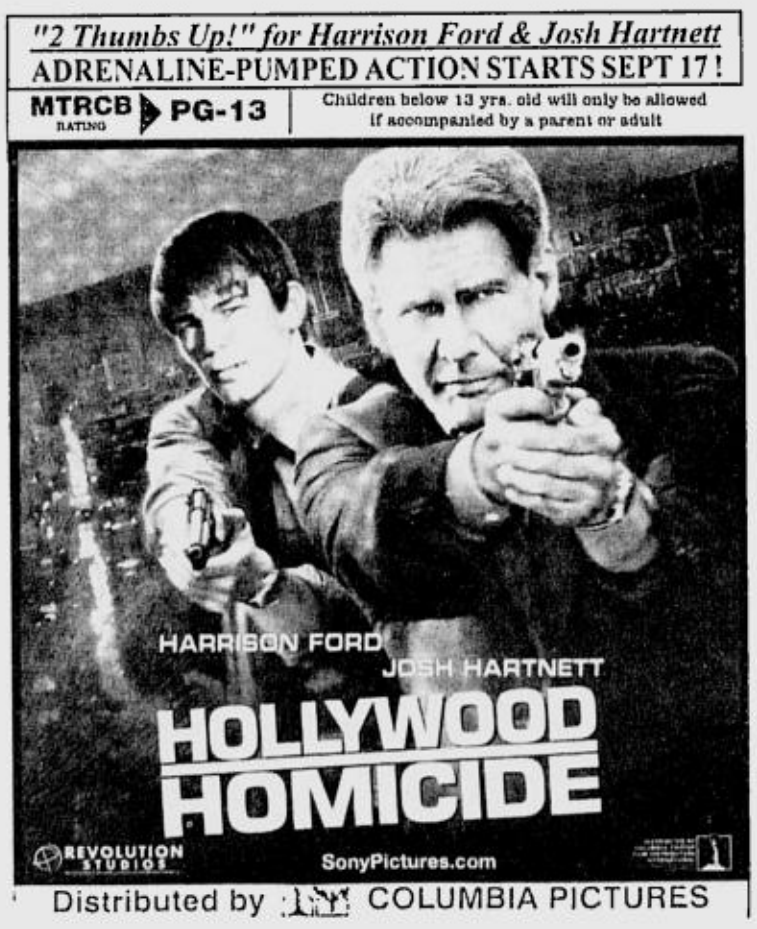
If ever there was a man in need of the humanizing influence of a little love and romance, it is the aloof, unsentimental Street. And if ever there was a woman who could give it to him and "beat him to a pulp if he refuses," it is Sanchez. But what goes on between the two here doesn't go beyond the first date.

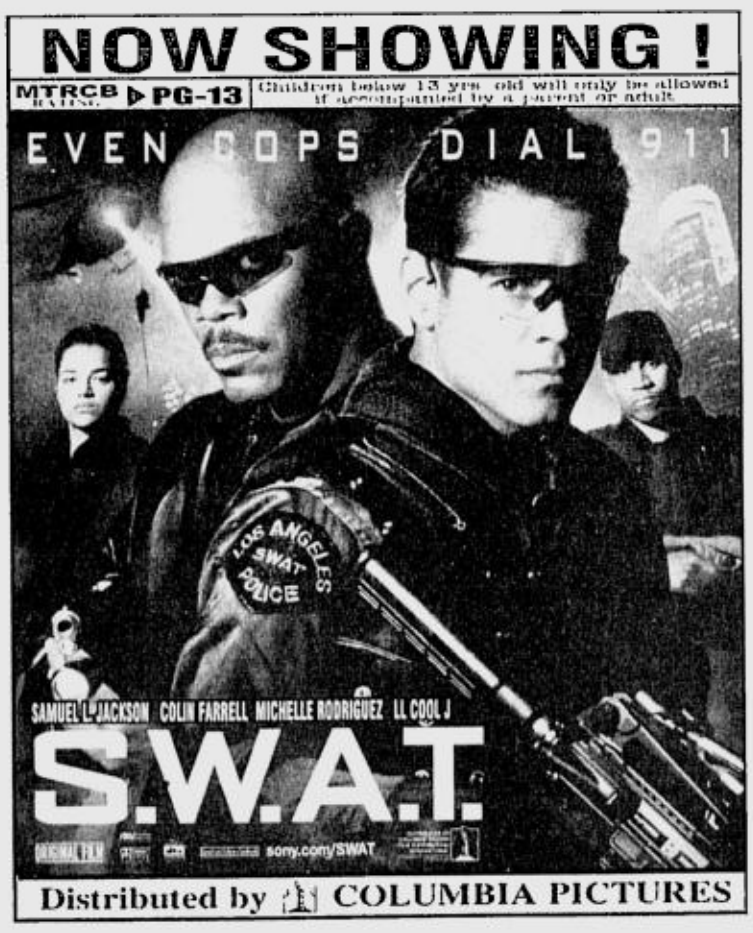
Playing the villains with diabolical glee in "S.W.A.T." are Olivier Martinez, Diana Lane's lover in "Unfaithful," and Jeremy Runner as Brian Gamble, Street's former S.W.A.T. partner turned rogue. If you've seen the trailer, you know by now that Martinez's Alex Montel, an internationally infamous criminal, makes a hideously generous offer of $100 million to anybody who could spring him out of prison. It goes without saying that Gamble answers the call and it is the S.W.A.T. team's duty to see that he fails in doing so.

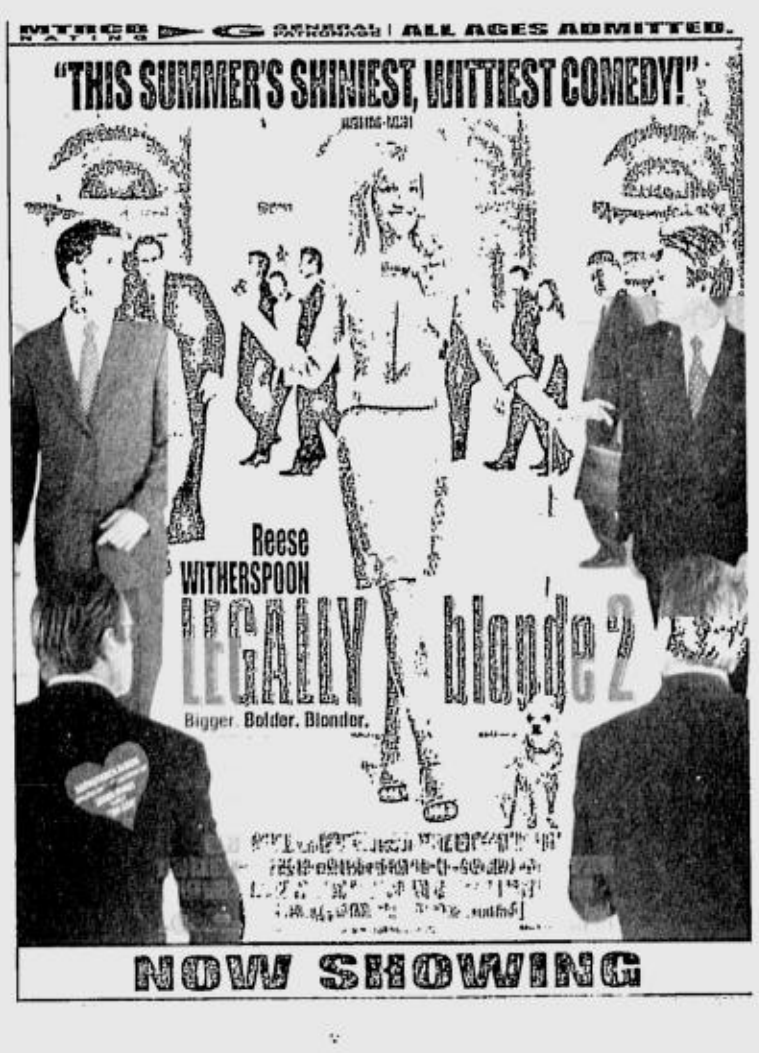
Funny, if Montel were imprisoned in the Philippines, any escape attempt would have been much less complicated and cheaper. Just look at Al Ghozi.

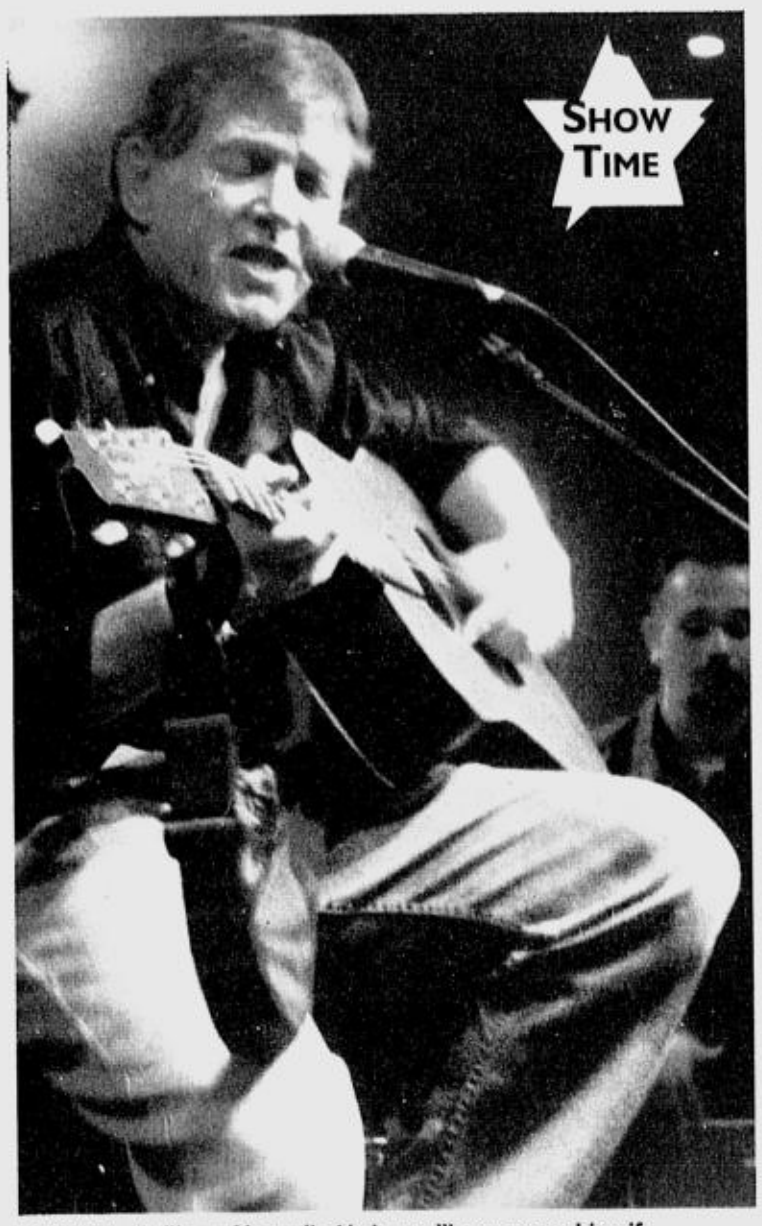
"S.W.A.T." is an action picture that doesn't claim to be more than what it is. But it is more than what it needs to be.











LISTEN to Pullin and be pulled in by godliness, urges his wife.

'Ka' Roger takes the road less traveled

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

ROGER Pullin has released "Travellers in Time," a collection of 10 folk-gospel tracks. The album is Pullin's second, after his 1996 debut, "Ka Roger."

Pullin, of course, is more popularly known as Ka Roger to fans of his wife of nine years, talk show host and entertainer Tessie Tomas.

During the album launch at Tavern on the Square at Greenbelt 3, Ka Roger performed a few cuts from the new album, as well as some from his previous one, in two sets. He also sang the energetic church ditty "This Little Light of Mine" (not included in the album), with his wife and guest friends, singers Lou Bonnevie, Grace Nono and Binky Lampano.

Tessie joked before the performance: "*Magandang gabi po*, extra *lang ako dito*, lip synch *lang ako*."

Her husband proceeded to sign autographs and answer questions after the lively show, alternately saying "Hello, *bayan*," "Bye, Pinoy" and "*Salamat po*" to his hobnobbing or departing guests.

The England-born musician, still experiencing the after-gig rush, also apologized if his history was a bit mixed.

His heroes

Ka Roger, a marine biologist by profession, recounted his early days as a musician, way back in college. "I'm 59 now," he said. "Back in the '60s, I was lucky enough to be in London, and around that time, there were a lot of rhythm and blues musicians, and folk and acoustic guitarists were coming to the place. There was a big folk club movement in England at that time, and so you could get up and play. Everybody just did it, in the pubs and in the clubs, so that's what really started me off."

He cites many heroes from that era, whose influence he still values: "There was John Renbourn, Bert Jansch, and Davy Graham in the early '60s. Of course, we were influenced by Bob Dylan a lot." He also mentions Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, John Lee Hooker, and, on the soul front, Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin as very inspirational artists.

"I like the frontier between gospel music, soul and rock, and that's where I am," he said. "I'm a white boy, but I love the blues and gospel."

He started working for the University of Liverpool, and lived on the Isle of Man, a little island in the Irish Sea, where the new CD cover photo was taken. "I was lecturing marine biology. I played in a number of bands there. I began blues and electric folk and stuff. We were doing a lot of covers—Crosby, Stills and Nash, and Dylan. I started writing songs, I got a song, an environmental song, into the National Songbook of the Isle of Man."

Spiritual

He came to the Philippines in 1979, where he would focus more on his science work. "I kind of switched off a bit from music then because I had a lot of work to do," he explained. "I was very impressed with what people were doing here, and I didn't feel I could really find places to play so easily—it's not easy for expats—but the music is always great.

"Fifteen years ago now, I kicked back into writing and recording again."

He would record some as-yet unreleased projects, consisting of original compositions and co-written material, in Rome and in

'KA' ROGER/ A29

DID YOU KNOW...

Actress **Snooky Serna** and her actor husband **Ricardo Cepeda**, with their daughters **Sofia** and **Samantha**, were seen checking out the screening schedule of the hit **Johnny Depp-Orlando Bloom** movie, "Pirates of the Carribean," at the Glorietta 4 cinemas in Makati City last week. Snooky, star of television's "Habang Kapiling Ka," last month made public her plan to file for annulment of her marriage, saying the fire had gone out of their love life. Could she be trying to rekindle the fire?

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	WWW.XXX.COM
Ali 2	PINAY PIE
Ali 3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 4	SWAT
Ali 5	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 6	SINBAD
Ali 7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

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SEPT 10	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT XO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	WWW XXX COM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ASBOOBS
B	KALABIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-3	KALABIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-6	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-8	SINBAD
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-15	INTERSTATE 60

LORES

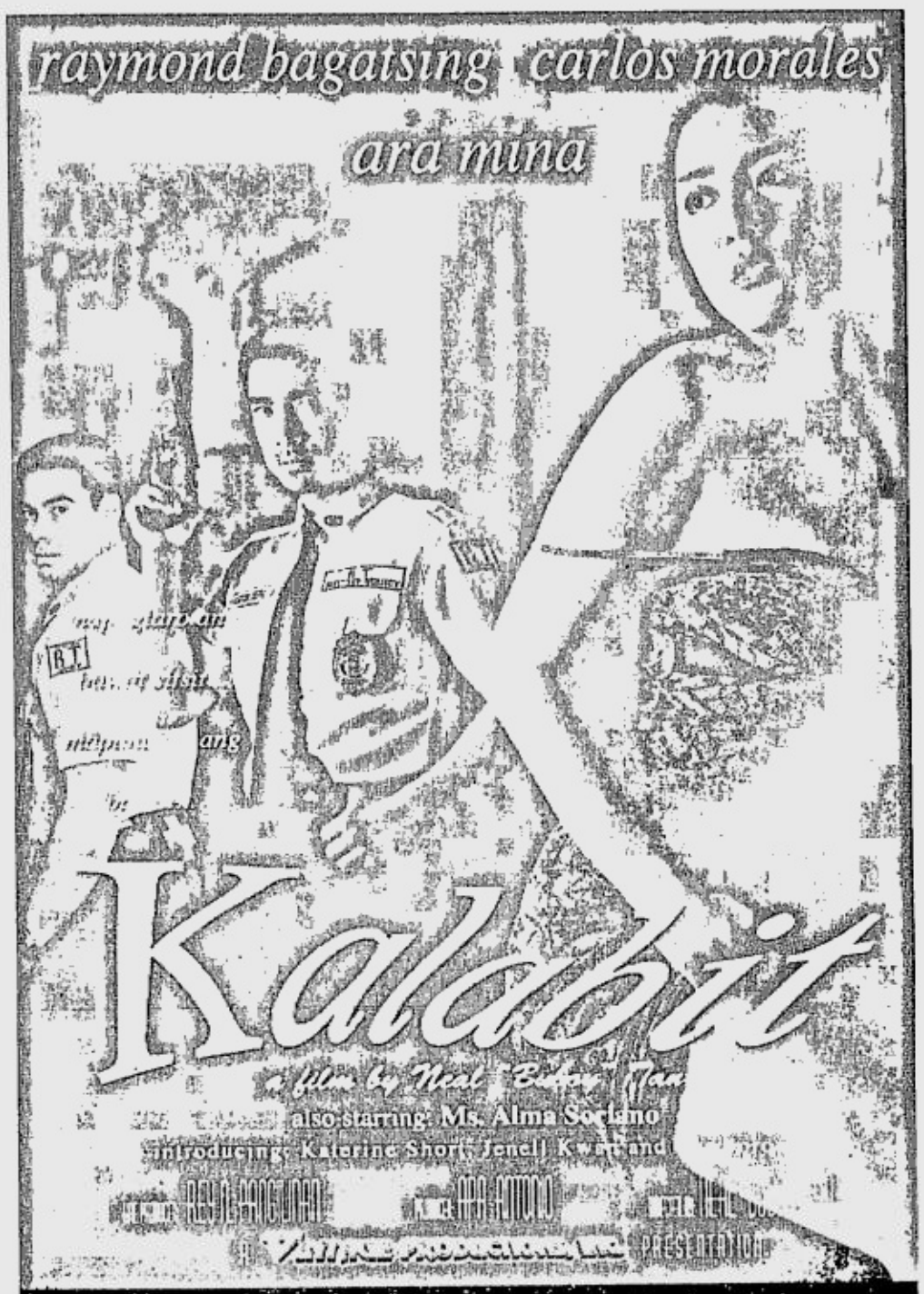
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-4	WWW XXX COM

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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DADDY DAY CARE GP 12.05,2:00,3.55,5:50,7:45,9:40	INTERSTATE 60 PG13 12:10,2:35,5.00,7:25,9:50	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS R13 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55,10:20

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Onemig consulted parents before taking on gay role

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

YOUNG actor Onemig Bondoc had to consult his parents on whether he should accept a role as a gay man in television's "Buttercup."

Onemig said that when he learned his role in "Buttercup" would have more than just insinuation of the character's sexual preference and would, in a future episode, require him to have an intimate scene with his best friend Pippo (Carlos Agassi), he immediately sought the advice of people close to him, including his parents.

"My parents were against it," Onemig recalled. "They shared my fear that people might doubt my sexuality. I was afraid that doing such a role might destroy my career completely.

"At the same time," he added, "I realized that it was about time that I moved on if I wanted my career to flourish. As my friends told me, it is just a role. And they wanted to find out how I looked in a woman's clothes. Director Wenn Deramas assured me that I would have nothing to worry about because everything would be done in good taste."

Onemig is one of the eight major characters on ABS CBN's hit show, which airs every Saturday at 9:30 p.m., and which enters its second season. The first season's finale showed a flamboyant Wilson (Onemig), in drag, coming out of a huge cake, letting the whole gang know he is very gay.

His "Buttercup" co-star Claudine Barreto said she couldn't imagine Onemig acting like a girl, until she saw him dressed in women's clothes for the revelation episode.

"I was completely shocked with 'her' appearance," said Claudine.

This was not the first time a gay role was offered to Onemig. He turned down a movie simply because he was to play a closet queen. He said he was too young then and wasn't ready to shake off his boy-next-door image.

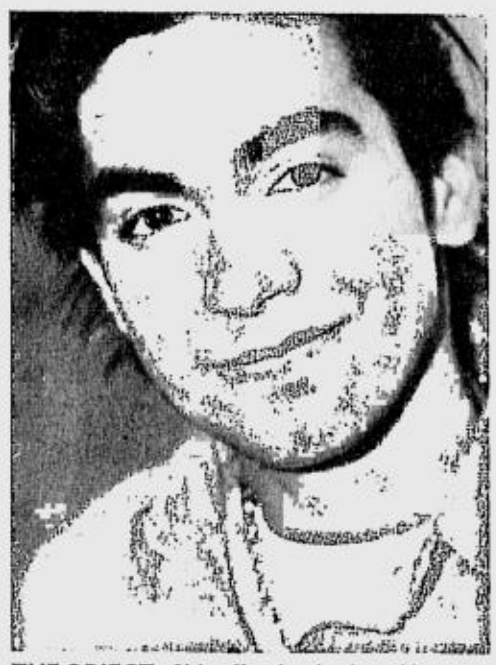
Is there a lesson to be learned from Onemig's character?

"The message is that gays have the same rights as anybody else," he said. "They also want to love and be loved."

As "Buttercup" progresses, Meg (Claudine) now shares an apartment with his best male friend, Wilson, who left his parent's home after coming out of the closet because his father disapproved of his sexual orientation.

The formerly happy-go-lucky Pippo (Carlos) is at the crossroads: He leaves his mother's home when he finds out she's having an affair with the driver.

NO MORE after this, Onemig says of gay roles.



THE OBJECT of his affection is played by Carlos.

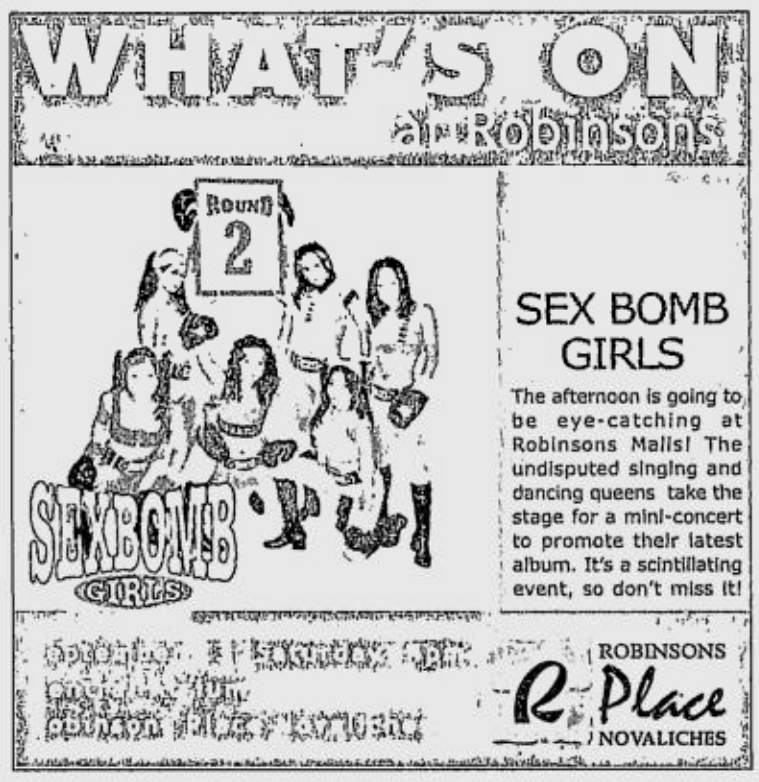
Onemig and Carlos were told they would be lovers in forthcoming episodes.

Also in the cast of "Buttercup" is Ciara Sotto. Interestingly, both Onemig and Carlos were romantically linked to Ciara.

Onemig said that, lest he be typecast or become a clone of Roderick Paulate, he would refrain from accepting gay roles after "Buttercup" ends.

"*Mamahinga muna siya* (his gay character) for about a year as I entertain other kinds of roles," said Onemig. "I've just finished doing an unpredictable character, the nerdy pursuer of Assunta de Rossi in the comedy 'Pinay Pie.'"

Also in "Buttercup" are Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Assunta, and Miko Palanca. Wenn Deramas has returned as director, with Deo Edrinal as creative consultant and Mae Santos as executive producer.



Radical change of pace for Jackie Chan

AFTER decades of doing martial arts scenes and risky stunts onscreen, Asian film star **Jackie Chan** is planning a radical change of pace, and will do a low-budget love story next year, with an American actress as his love interest.

To make the "non-commercial" project a reality, Jackie is waiving his huge talent fee. The plan is to make the film for a $4-million production budget.

Some people think that the star is crazy to give up the millions of dollars he makes when he stars in his signature action-comedy movies.

On the other hand, some industry observers note that, as he matures, Jackie's physical prowess isn't as impressive as it used to be, so he really should start making the transition to something else.

NVC season

JUST when local theater buffs thought they'd lost **Monique Wilson** to London for keeps,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

she has come back home to open New Voice Company's 2003 season. It leads off with a special production of "The Vagina Monologues," starring herself, **Bibot Amador** and **Baby Barredo**, on Sept. 19 and 20 at the new Republic of Malate, which is now a 500-seat performance venue.

From Oct. 13 to 18, the monologues will be performed in Hong Kong. It moves to Singapore from Oct. 26 to Nov. 2. In June next year, it will be staged in Tokyo, Japan.

New Voice's Manila offerings this year include Wilson's solo concert, "Monique Sings Gershwin and Other Broadway Hits," on Sept. 26 and 27. She will also lauch the jazz album of Gershwin tunes that she recorded in Tokyo.

A new play directed by Monique will run from Oct. 17 to 25, to be followed by a comedy directed by NV assistant artistic director Rito Asilo, from Nov. 21 to 29.

We're happy to see that NVC is solidly back in business again, and that we have a new performance venue in the rebuilt Republic of Malate (1769 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila). For inquiries, call 896-6695, fax 896-5497, or e-mail nvc@pacific.net.ph.

Enchanted attractions

ON Sept. 13, Enchanted Kingdom launches its newest ride, Kart Trak, a 600-meter-long go-karting attraction located at the spaceport zone. The track was built according to international specifications by the Carmona and Batangas Racing Circuits.

Aside from the Kart Trak, EK has added other new attractions. They include the 4-D Discovery Theater, the first and only four-dimensional theater in the country, featuring audio, visual and sensory special effects; the Xtreme Paintball, a war simulation game for the adventurous; and Mad Science, a spectacular show for students featuring amazing demonstrations of chemical reactions, fantastic forces, and bubbling potions.

'Bridges of Love'

REGINE Velasquez sings for a cause in "Bridges of Love," a benefit concert at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Sept. 18. Beneficiary is Bridges Foundation Inc., a school providing quality education for children with special needs. A donation to the school will entitle the donor to an invitation to "Bridges of Love." Call 372-0752 and 53.

For the past decade, Bridges has dedicated itself to helping special children achieve their full potential, eventually enabling them to function in a family and society that appreciate and know how to interact with them.

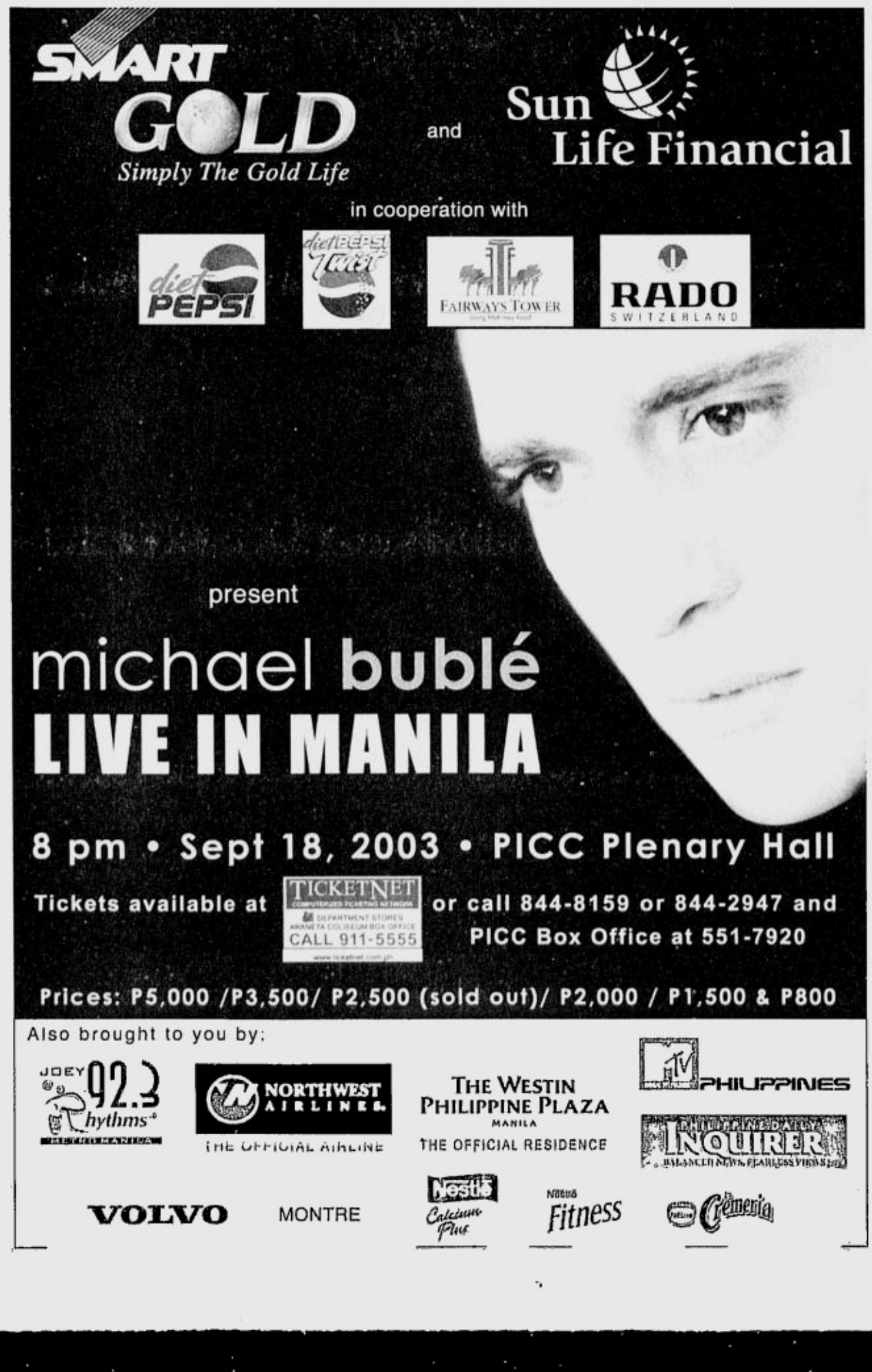
Bridges helps children regardless of their economic level, via its socialized tuition plan. Outside funding enables the school to meet the needs of special children from financially-challenged families.

New St. Michael Mass

LAST Sept. 2, **Ryan Cayabyab**'s "St. Michael Mass—A Eucharistic Celebration" was launched at the Manila International Book Fair at SM Megamall. Fourteen original compositions arranged for choir with keyboard accompaniment comprise the songbook of the new congregational Mass dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel.

The music is influenced by Negro spirituals, gospel music, and rhythm and blues, and was composed by Cayabyab specifically to attract the youth to actively participate in the liturgy.

The songbook is available exclusively at Bookwagon.



Films by non-members qualified for FAP awards

IN A bid to make its awards system credible, the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) announced it is introducing changes in its policies and procedures for giving out trophies of excellence annually.

Leo G. Martinez, newly appointed FAP head, says the new system will eliminate needless lobbying for votes at the end of the awards season. It will also do away with internal politics as nominations will be open, even to non-FAP members, Martinez adds.

MARTINEZ

The old system required that nominations be submitted until the end of the awards-giving season. Under the new system, viewers will watch all exhibited movies, whether these are made by FAP members or not.

All movies will be eligible for viewing to eliminate needless politicking, stresses Martinez.

Viewers will meet at the end of every quarter to come up with citations. They, including non-FAP members, will then make a list of worthy films and performances, from which official nominees can be drawn at the end of four quarters.

The Electoral College will then vote on the winners come awards season.

To make sure nominators have actually watched the movies and the individuals whose names they are nominating, the FAP will issue a passbook to be signed by theater authorities, listing the movie seen, the moviehouse where it was shown, and the viewing date.

All movies, even those of non-FAP members, will be viewed, thus making excellence, not membership in the body, the main criterion for nomination, says Martinez.

The new procedure will ensure that those that fail to meet the criteria for excellence will not be nominated, says Martinez.

This complete overhaul of the awards process has prompted FAP officers to tie up with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) for a two-day workshop on the new procedure. Prof. Cecile Manikan and three other AIM professors have agreed to conduct the workshop for free.

Another change being implemented is the training of technical film personnel on basic computer skills. The project, spearheaded by Manny Nuque, has started conducting weekend seminars, five hours a day, with 20 trainees per session, on the third floor of Genom Cyber Café at Timog corner Mother Ignacia Avenue in Quezon City.

The knowledge in basic computer will go a long way in improving the quality of film products, FAP officers point out.

The training, which will be accredited by Tesda, will also professionalize the ranks of the industry. Director Arsenio "Butch" Bautista is spearheading this project.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

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- Political jitters test banks' resilience /B11
- Special perks, VIP treatment for prime clients /B12

7-WEEK HIGH

Foreign buying lifts local stock mart

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL stocks surged by 3.2 percent to a seven-week high yesterday as foreign investors, inspired by the rebounding US and regional markets, scrambled for bargains while defying jitters over the weakening peso and continuing domestic political squabbles.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed 40.3 points higher at 1,299.33, led by index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., and value turnover rose to P832 million from P526.8 million on Monday.

All the major indices were up, with the commercial-industrial, mining and property sectors posting the biggest gains of 3.46 percent, 3.44 percent and 3.22 percent, respectively.

"The Philippines has lagged some of its key regional counterparts and now it is catching up. In addition, the strong volumes suggest a resurgence in activity by foreign brokers after the recent summer holidays," said ATR Kim Eng Securities research head Andrew Long.

Long and other market players expect more gains in the coming days, although at a more modest pace.

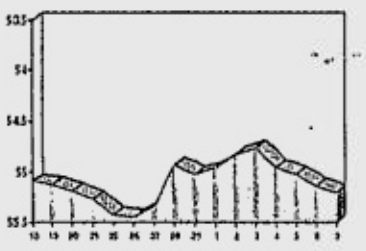
"Given the momentum we have at the moment, I expect the gains to be sustained, but near 1,300 points we will likely run into some profit-taking," Long said.

"I would say for the past two days it has been the foreigners that have been driving this market," Unicapital Securities research

FOREIGN/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.195 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2003

¥ 116.36 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 9, 2003.

GOLD: $378.00-378.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 9, 2003

Treasury sells P13.37B worth of 5-yr notes

BANKS swamped yesterday's auction of five-year promissory notes and allowed the government to raise P13.37 billion from the debt instrument, bringing to P20.07 billion the amount the Bureau of Treasury raised from two days of selling what appeared to be a more attractive debt paper.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said that given the robust appetite of investors for the promissory notes, the government would consider another auction for the same debt notes next month.

Tenders for the five-year notes reached P17.9 billion against the minimum offering of P3 billion.

The deputy treasurer said the interest was more than what the government expected considering that last week, banks were partial to the seven-year notes rather than the five-year paper.

The five-year notes fetched a coupon rate of 9.75 percent or lower than the 10-percent average rate for the four-year regular bonds sold last month.

Figueroa said the market should take a hint that the government would not allow local interest rates to move up unreasonably.

"What else do we need to do to show the market that we have a healthy cash position and that we don't need to borrow at a high rate? The market is very liquid because the private sector is not borrowing," the deputy treasurer pointed out.

TREASURY/ B2

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SMC appeals junking of bid for tax perks

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. will appeal a decision of the Board of Investments denying its application for tax perks for a P6.7-billion recycling plant to be put up in San Fernando, Pampanga.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SMC said the BOI thumbed down the application of its subsidiary, Beverage Packaging Specialist Inc., for fiscal incentives for its polythelene terephalate (PET) recycling project.

"We continue to believe in the merit of our petition and will be submitting an appeal shortly to persuade the BOI to reconsider and act favorably," SMC said.

SMC is seeking pioneer incentives for the recycling plant to avail itself of a six-year income tax holiday, exemption from wharfage fees, duty-free importation of spare parts and additional deduction on taxable income.

Although the project was listed under the 2003 Investments Priorities Plan, the BOI denied the petition as the regulator lacked the implementing rules and regulations for such projects under the Solid Waste Management Act. Specifically, the government has yet to draw up guidelines on what constituted recycling nor the benchmark on the amount of waste materials required to be used as inputs.

SMC yesterday said it was informed of the BOI's decision last Monday.

While the main processing plant of the SMC unit will be put up in San Fernando, Pampanga, conversion operations will be conducted in Batangas, Cebu, Davao, Misamis Oriental and Laguna. Commercial operations are scheduled to start in May 2004.

The project seeks to use state-of-the-art technology approved by the US and European Food and Drug Administrations to process post-consumer plastic bottles and convert these into food-grade packaging materials and containers. Aside from plastic recycling facilities, the project also includes facilities designed for the fabrication of plastic closures.

Collection of plastic bottles will be conducted nationwide primarily through the support of existing plastic bottle collectors.

Foreign . . .

From page B1

head Elena Ponceca said.

Long said investors have put aside the stability concerns for now to focus instead on the attractive valuations of many leading stocks.

"The market has digested the Oakwood mutiny and some negative macroeconomic numbers. We have become a laggard market and investors are now responding to that with many companies trading at exceptionally cheap multiples."

The strong runup came as a surprise for most brokers, given the continuing uncertainties on the domestic economic and political front.

"It's difficult to imagine why stocks are rising given that peso is depreciating and also given the uninspiring economic data and the lack of fresh news to induce buying," said Eric Claudio, a dealer at Unicapital Securities.

"We can assign the rise to the strong Nasdaq, as the local market is closely associated with the movement of the Nasdaq, but even the strong Nasdaq shouldn't be so much influential especially if it's being negated by the weakening of the peso," Claudio said. The technology-heavy Nasdaq was up by 1.63 percent to close at 1,888.62 on Monday.

Claudio said September was not exactly the season to see sharply rising prices, noting that the 40-point rise would not be easy to replicate in the following days. *With a report from Reuters*

Treasury . . .

From page B1

On Monday, the treasury bill rate should go down below the prevailing secondary market rate of 5.975 percent.

The Treasury has the authority from Malacañang and the central bank's Monetary Board to issue as much as P100 billion worth of promissory notes.

Last Monday, the Treasury sold P6.7 billion worth of seven-year promissory notes with a coupon rate of 10.25 percent.

"Banks have been clamoring for the promissory notes because it gives them flexibility in their tax position and also improves their bad loans ratio," said Figueroa.

Sold to a maximum of 19 lenders, the buyers of the promissory notes would be exempt from the 20-percent withholding, paying only an income tax. Regular government securities are subject to a withholding tax. *Clarissa S. Batino*

INTEREST RATES

Sept. 09, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 9-Sep-03	MART1 8-Sep-03
1 Month	6.32	6.3
3 Months	6.3117	6.2883
6 Months	6.6692	6.8183
1 Year	8.395	8.4033
2 Years	9.7433	9.7533
3 Years	10.25	10.3117
4 Years	10.7183	10.7317
5 Years	11.14	11.1143
7 Years	11.55	11.5607
10 Years	11.89	11.8982
20 Years	12.27	12.2857
25 Years	12.4767	12.4786

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 9, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	99,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42.5	43	3,010,500
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	35	34.5	34.5	390,500
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	30	28.5	29.5	534,700
Philippine National Bank	24	24.75	24	24.75	132,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	22,700
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	19	19.25	48,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26 5	28	26.5	28	64,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1710	1710	1710	1710	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	117,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1200	1200	1200	830
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	58,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.68	0.65	0.68	5,980,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	665	690	665	690	61,880
Ipeople Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.048	0.046	0.048	25,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	15,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	15,610,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	635	670	635	665	222,240
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	7,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14.5	13.75	14.5	1,753,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22	23	22	22.75	1,765,500
Petron Corp.	1 98	2.02	1.98	2	10,828,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2 7	2 85	2.7	2.85	486,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	170,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0 72	0.7	0.72	990,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	225,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31.5	31	31.5	211,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	18.75	17.75	18.75	1,028,600
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	110,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53.5	52.5	53.5	85,300
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62	63	362,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.45	4 55	4.45	4.45	10,242,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	370,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	560,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.034	0.034	1,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	170,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.59	0.61	38,970,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.16	4,350,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	2,960,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.06	217,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.5	19	18.5	18.75	1,280,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	6,940,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.38	1,890,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.12	2.02	2.1	469,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.91	0 93	0.91	0.92	7,440,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	10,260,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	2,310,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,130,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1 02	1.02	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0 115	0 12	0 115	0.12	4,200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	2	2	2	2	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.04	89,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.095	0.0925	0.095	900,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	400
Steniel Manufacturing	0 15	0 15	0 15	0.15	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.54	3,690,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	200,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr)	26	27	26	26.5	931,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	21,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10 5	10.5	10.5	2,100
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0 0012	0.0012	0.0012	45,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	11,066,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0 2	0.2	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.24	0 23	0.235	2,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	15,170,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,290,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5 9	5.8	5.8	14,690,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	3,490,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.22	0.21	0 22	1,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0 28	810,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	200,000

DISCLOSURES

APC Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting at Sta. Maria Room, discovery Suites, Ortigas Center on Oct. 1 at 2 p.m. Record date is set on Sept. 3.

***

SAN Miguel Corp. confirms that the Board of Investments had informed them that it denied official acceptance of the application for registration of the polythylene terepthalate (PET) recycling project of Beverage Packaging Specialist Inc., a subsidiary of the corporation.

***

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on Oct. 30 at 8 a.m. at the McKinley Room, Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Record date is Sept. 26.

***

METRO Pacific Corp. will be moving its new headquarters to the 2nd floor, PLDT Tower I, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City effective Sept. 15.

***

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. confirms that their corporate vice chairman and chief executive officer Cesar Virata had said that RCBC had yet to formally revise its target income this year but expected earnings may be between P1.4 B to P1.5 B this year.

***

TOK-BIG Wedge Co. Inc. announced the appointment of Atty. Gerardo T. Herrera as the Company's compliance officer. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 9, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.903261	1.000000	55.069000
Japan	Yen	0.007739	0.008568	0.471800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.429681	1.582800	87.163200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.115819	0.128223	7.061100
Switzerland	Franc	0.649407	0.718959	39.592400
Canada	Dollar	0.657443	0.727855	40.082200
Singapore	Dollar	0.513800	0.568828	31.324800
Australia	Dollar	0.584938	0.647585	35.661900
Bahrain	Dinar	2.396045	2.652661	146.079400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.240864	0.266660	14.684700
Brunei	Dollar	0.512343	0.567215	31.236000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022193	0.024570	1.353000
UAE	Dirham	0.245939	0.272279	14.994100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.107100	60.966900
Argentina	Peso	0.307232	0.340136	18.730900
Brazil	Real	0.309654	0.342818	18.878600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134656	0.149078	8.209600
India	Rupee	0.019726	0.021839	1.202700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0 237732	0.263193	14.493800
Mexico	New Peso	0.081743	0.090498	4.983600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.521634	0.577501	31.802400
Norway	Kroner	0.121212	0.134194	7.389900
South Africa	Rand	0.119756	0.132582	7.301200
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.000855	0.047100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026567	0.029412	1.619700

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of September 10, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,175,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	65,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	45,000	70,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	250,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	50,000	60,000
Forest Hills "A"	180,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	275,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	240,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	230,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	35,000	40,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	165,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	180,000
Rockwell	340,000	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	130,000	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	760,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,100,000	7,100,000

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	SM SOUTHMALL	ROBINSONS GALLERIA
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Pedal-pushing PLDT

WHILE the country was being distracted by the Jose Pidal/A. Ping Daldal circus at the Senate, foreign brokers had been quietly scooping up PLDT stocks in the exchange, causing the telecom share price to spike up by 20 percent in just a week by yesterday.

According to the grapevine, DBP-Daiwa, a joint venture of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines with Japan's Daiwa Securities, had been leading the buying pack for the telecom shares. DBP, incidentally, is one of the major creditor-banks of PLDT.

PLDT spokesperson Menardo Jimenez Jr. was at a loss for words when contacted yesterday to explain the stock's revived fortune.

A mischievous explanation offered by a foreign broker is that Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will shortly undergo another round of refinancing negotiations with foreign creditors about its maturing obligations, with PLDT shares pledged as collateral for the putative new facility.

According to this explanation, the higher share price will translate to higher underlying value of the collateral, which should supposedly improve the financing terms for PLDT.

In any case, what has become clear is that the buoyant assessment given by PLDT president/CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan to INQUIRER editors sometime last week of August now appears to be uncannily prophetic, unlike MVP's brave words on Metro Pacific Corp./Fort Bonifacio, also given to the INQUIRER editors, prior to the Ayala capitulation.

(Just to be clear: Rather than the hoped-for market "tip," the MVP spiel to the INQUIRER group was the usual long-term buy recommendation of the stock. For non-believers, PLDT started the year at P267.50/share. Yesterday, it closed at P665, or a 148.6-percent gain.)

Rather than the buying opportunity, what piqued the mainly contrarian INQUIRER group was the MVP statement to the effect that he, MVP, would rather see Smart and Globe compete on add-on services, rather than on price.

As well, MVP said he also wanted an end to the multi-page advertising war between Smart and Ayala's Globe—a tit-for-tat fight that has proved to be a boon to INQUIRER—a wish that is now being implemented.

Mis-Fortune

IT looks like the Securities and Exchange Commission could not even enforce its own ruling as far as replacing its appointed receiver of the ASB Group.

According to the grapevine, the Court of Appeals has issued an injunction stopping the SEC from replacing accountant Fortunato "Fortune" Cruz with former Finex president Rosario Bernaldo as ASB receiver.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

The appellate court issued the injunction at the instance of Cruz, an order that the SEC will contest all the way to Supreme Court if need be, according to an SEC official. The SEC wants to bring down the compensation of the ASB receiver to P50,000/month from the P375,000/month that Cruz has been receiving for the past three years.

Meanwhile, Joaquin Cunanan/PriceWaterhouseCoopers clarified that it merely provided outsourced services to Cruz for his ASB work and thus the accounting firm, it said, is not a party or co-claimant to the P15-million claim filed by Cruz against the ASB Group.

Equivalent to a 10-percent fee, the P15-million claim represented Cruz's having successfully secured the release of some P150-million of tax credit certificates for ASB. The SEC has vetoed the extra fee that Cruz is claiming, since it said that service, procuring tax exemption, is supposed to be one of the functions of a receiver.

Angara's assistant

THE SHORT-TERMED assistant of then Erap Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, lawyer Macel Fernandez, is now special projects head of ABS-CBN reporting directly to chair/CEO Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III.

Fernandez joined the broadcast network last month, after completing two years of masteral studies overseas.

Heard through the grapevine

THE INHERITANCE of the wife of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Bettina Lopez, is now being jeopardized by the nasty annulment case filed by Bettina's father, ex-Iloilo Rep. Albertito Lopez, against his wife and Bettina's mother, Chona Mejia.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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Gov't moves to perk up mining sector

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is drawing up a new strategy to perk up the mining industry in a bid to draw more investments, create new jobs and spur economic growth, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

In a speech before the Philippine Society of Mining Engineers, Neri acknowledged the emergence of a $4-billion local mining industry, which had long lagged due to regulatory barriers and environmental concerns.

Neri reported that the government was now laying down the institutional and regulatory framework that would be conducive for long-term mining investments. There would be reforms that would simplify procedures for the grant of mining tenements and other systems as well as harmonize existing regulations to enable access to minerals land, he said.

He proposed that mining companies ensure their environmental soundness, consultations with the community, and equitable benefit-sharing by all stakeholders to address community concerns on environmental destruction, social unacceptability, and dislocation of communities which often hounded mining projects.

He noted that President Macapagal-Arroyo had already issued a directive to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Trade and Industry, instructing the two agencies to actively broker a "win-win" solution that would promote investments in the minerals industry while protecting the environment.

The Philippines, which lies in the Pacific ring of fire, ranks third in the world for gold endowment, fourth in copper, fifth in nickel, and sixth in chromite. The country is also rich in non-metallic and industrial minerals such as marble, limestone, clays, feldspar and aggregates.

Estimates of the country's potential mineral wealth go as high as $840 billion, Neri noted.

As part of Neri's "supply-side" economics to strengthen specific industries, mining will be encouraged, along with the tourism sector, which will be propelled by the liberalization of airline services. Increasing the frequencies of airlines flying in and out of the country will boost tourism.

"The growth of mining and tourism will have a strong positive impact on domestic growth and foreign exchange reserves," said Neri.

Lack of capital, slump in global mineral prices and escalating costs have weighed down the mining sector in recent years.

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Marketing Company needs strong
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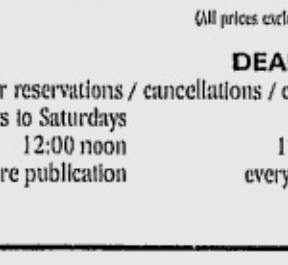
penses. Fax resume to Ms. Mary
at HRD- 898-2612.

MGT. STAFF
633-2962 Look for Mr Alray

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that a warrant of arrest for MS. HUMILDAD T. VILLEGAS of No. 289 4th West Crame, San Juan, Metro Manila whose picture appears above, has been issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 42 of Quezon City in criminal case No. 118604 for violation of Batas Pambansa Blang 22.

Please direct any information leading for her arrest or whereabouts to Tel. No. 0918-6973026 c/o Atty. Ariel Marin.

(PDI-Sept 10 2003)

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CIVIL ENGINEER - w/ exp in
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knowledge in booster connec-
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We are currently seeking
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LOCATION: Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio, Quezon.

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885 3739 or 555 0002 loc. 3739 and (0917) 627 8288. Offers should be sent Mr. Tejada at Building A, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

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locs. 161/163

transCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date : August 28, 2003
Contract No. BCMD.2003-01

1. Contract No.: BCMD.2003-01 — **Supply and Delivery of Metering Equipment, Devices, Computer Software and Hardware for Luzon and Visayas.**
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supplying and delivering the metering equipment, devices, computer software and hardware to TRANSCO's designated delivery site.
3. The Approved Budget from Internal Cash Generation for the Contract to be bid are as follows:

Schedule I	Digital Multifunction Meters	P 101,850,000.00
Schedule II	Meter Data Retrieval System	P 40,000,000.00

4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors who have the legal technical and financial requisites of the contract bid.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by TRANSCO in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance on September 01, 2003 at the Bids and Contract Management Department, Ground Floor, Building No. 2 Power Center, BIR Road Corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before October 15, 2003 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors, not yet included in the TRANSCO's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledge or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee &
Vice President, Eng'g and Design Construction

(PDI - Aug 30 Sept 3 & 10, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY NORTHERN MINDANAO AND CARAGA REGIONS CALENDAR YEAR 2004

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Private Security Agencies with existing operations and offices in Caraga and Northern Mindanao Regions since January 2001, to participate in the Bidding for Security Services of the National Food Authority in said regions. The Security Services to be bidded shall be as follows:

SERVICES AREAS	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET
NORTHERN MINDANAO:		
LOT NO.		
1. Misamis Oriental/ Regional Office/Camiguin	24	P 2,631,940.96
2. Bukidnon	27	P 3,204,142.92
3. Iligan City/Lanao del Norte	15	P 1,765,602.00
4. Ozamis City/Misamis Occidental	12	P 1,424,063.52
TOTAL	78	P 9,225,749.40
CARAGA:		
5. Agusan del Norte/Butuan City	8	P 869,063.04
6. Agusan del Sur	12	P 1,303,594.56
7. Surigao del Norte/Surigao City	14	P 1,520,860.32
8. Surigao del Sur	10	P 1,086,328.80
TOTAL	44	P 4,779,846.72

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING:

September 10-22, 2003 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	- Submission of Letter of Intent/Issuance of Application for Registration and payment of non-refundable Fee of P2,000.00
October 3, 2003 Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM	- Deadline of Submission of Notarized Application for Registration and Requirements
October 9-15, 2003 (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	- Issuance of Certificate of Official Registration as NFA Security Service Contractor and Application for Eligibility and Requirements, and Payment of non-refundable Bidding Fee of P500.00 per lot
October 17, 2003	- Pre-Bidding Conference Time : 9:00 AM Venue: NFA Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro
November 5, 2003	- Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposal Time : 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM Venue : NFA Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Regional Office Baloy, Cagayan de Oro
November 5, 2003	- Opening of Sealed Bids Time : 1:31 PM

Only NFA registered security agencies are allowed to apply for eligibility and to bid for security service contract.

For further information, you may contact **Asst. Regional Director Mr. CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO** at NFA Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City thru Telephone Nos. (08822) 732-215 or (088) 855-2721 or **Asst. Regional Director Mr. ALAN B. BORJA, CARAGA Region**, National Food Authority Provincial Office, Capitol Drive, Butuan City thru Telephone Nos. (085) 342-7898 or (085) 225-6701. Application form and bidding documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat c/o **Ms. EMMA P. ASIÑERO**

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) FLO G. PASCUAL
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept 10 & 16, 2003)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites all registered Janitorial Service Providers duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to apply for eligibility screening and bid for janitorial and other support services requirement of PEZA.

Approved Budget Cost = PhP 4,898,498.83

Contract period is for one (1) year.

Eligibility Screening/pre-qualification documents may be secured upon presentation of PEZA Certificate of Registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the BAC Secretariat 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City from September 22 to 30, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mondays to Fridays only. Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than 3:00 p.m. of 10 October 2003. All participating bidders will be informed in writing of their qualification or disqualification.

For this purpose a pre-bid conference will be held on 07 November 2003, 2:00 P.M. at the Social Hall, 6/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.

All pre-qualified bidders shall submit their sealed bid proposals in four (4) sets – one (1) original and three (3) copies, accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total budget cost in the form of a surety bond (valid for 120 days) callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission, on or before 10:00 a.m. of 25 November 2003 to the BAC at the Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance & Administration 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City. The bids shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the same date. Late bidders shall not be admitted. Official time shall be the PEZA clock.

PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to PEZA.

The CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 10 & 17, 2003)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting Contractors/ Suppliers to a public bidding for the Supply and Delivery of the following requirements:

Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
66 units Laptop Computers	P6,171,000.00	P2,000.00	Sept. 16, 2003 2:00 p.m.
1 Lot Various Computer Peripherals	P16,764,900.00	P5,000.00	Sept. 17, 2003 2:00 p.m.
146 units Epson TMU-950 Printers (2nd Bidding)	P5,840,000.00	P2,000.00	Sept. 18, 2003 2:00 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services starting **September 2, 2003.**

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids for each requirement shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference which will be conducted at Rm. 602, 6th Floor, HDMF Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz/Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 811-42-62, 811-42-79 or visit our Corporate Website at http://pag-ibig-fund.com or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph

(Sgd.) **JAIME A. FABIAÑA**
Executive Vice President &
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chair BAC-ITR

(PDI–Sept. 2 & 10, 2003)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to sumbit sealed bids for the **General Services of PNOC EC Malangas Coal Terminal (MT03-1302 R1).**

Only contractors who are pre-qualified and accredited by PNOC EC shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Secretariat (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **September 2, 2003** upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PHP 300.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2 sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than **3:00 P.M. of September 24, 2003** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on **September 17, 2003, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www. procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – September 10, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Division of Romblon
Bids and Awards Committee

September 10, 2003

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of fund to cover eligible payments for Civil Works Component of the Project Bidding is open to eligible bidders classified by and registered with Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on registration and classification of at least Small "B" for packages 1, 2 & 4 and at least Medium "A" for package 3 for building from eligible source countries defined in the guidelines for procurement under the JBIC Loans.

The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following packages:

A. **Package 1: RBN-01/08-004/003-0056**
   - i. Municipality of Alcantara
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Four (4) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Alcantara CES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Alcantara CES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Camili ES
   - ii. Municipality of Ferrol
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Ferrol CES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms RP-US Type S.B. at Hinag-oman ES

B. **Package 2: RBN-06/07/08-003/005/004-0057**
   - i. Municipality of Looc
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Pili ES.
   - ii. Municipality of Odiongan
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Bangon ES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Six (6) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Budiong ES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms RP-US Type S.B. at Rizal ES
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Rizal ES.

C. **Package 3: RBN-03-002-0058**
   - i. Municipality of Cajidiocan
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Six (6) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Cajidiocan CES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms RP-US Type S.B. at Cajidiocan CES
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms BLSB at Cambalo ES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Cambalo ES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Imelda Type S.B. at Cambalo ES.

D. **Package 4: RBN-03/12-003-006-0059**
   - i. Municipality of Magdiwang
     - Repair of one (1) unit – One (1) Classroom Std. MPSB at Ambulong PS.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Std. MPSB at Ambulong PS.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Four (4) Classrooms Marcos Type B S. at Tampayan ES.
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Two (2) Classrooms Cory Type S.B. at Tampayan ES.
   - ii. Municipality of San Fernando
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Three (3) Classrooms Marcos Type S.B. at Taclobo ES
     - Repair of one (1) unit – Five (5) Classrooms Magsaysay T.S.B. at Taclobo ES.

Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Romblon, Division Project Implementation Support Unit (DPISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) with address at Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon for a non-refundable of Php1,000.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid Opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Division Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education-Division Office of Romblon, Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon on or before 10:00 A.M. October 10, 2003 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on October 3, 2003 at 10:00 A.M. at the DepEd, Division Office of Romblon in Brgy. Capaclan, Romblon, Romblon. This document shall form part of the bid documents for the proposed projects.

(Sgd.) JOSE FREDDIE M. MOCON
Chairman
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 10, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **GLORIA R. ACA**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **VETTE INDUSTRIAL SALES** since **July 03, 2003.** All transaction made on the said date and after will not be honored by the company.

(PDI–Sept. 10, 2003)

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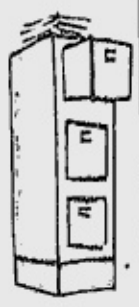

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WE HAVE THESE VERY SPECIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC
The Energy Company

Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to sumbit sealed bids for the **General Services of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base (BX03-659 R1).**

Only contractors who are pre-qualified and accredited by PNOC EC shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Secretariat (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **September 2, 2003** upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PHP 300.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2 sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than **3:00 P.M. of September 25, 2003** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on **September 18, 2003, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www. procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – September 10, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Occidental Mindoro
MUNICIPALITY OF CALINTAAN

September 1, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The Municipal Government of Calintaan invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following projects

Description of the project : **Construction of Public Market**

ITEM NO.	SCOPE OF WORK	QUANTITY	UNIT
I	Layout and Excavation	LS	
II	Reinforced Concrete Works	LS	
III	Masonry Works	LS	
IV	Roofing Works	LS	
V	Water Supply	LS	

The CONTRACTORS shall generally consist of supply of all materials, labor, tools equipment and supervision required to complete the project in strict compliance with the approved plans and specifications.

Minimum Bid Security	2.5% of Bid Amount
Bid Closing Date	September 30, 2003
Calendar Days	120 C.D.

The BAC-LGU reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnify to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) CAROLINA V. AMURAO
MPDC, BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept 10 & 17, 2003)

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

OBITUARIES

COMMODORE GREGORIO L. LIM, RET.

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on Sept. 8, 2003 at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Filomena** (†); children **Sandra**, **Gregorio Jr.**, **Dennis**, **Laura**, **Nanette** & **C. Patrick Lee** and **Isagani**; grandchildren **Tiffany** and **Sonya**; **Denny**, **Jenica** & **Ariana**, **Claudine**, **Dana** & **Karla**, and great granddaughter **Sarah**, brother, sister, in-laws, nephews, nieces, all the relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Funeral mass will be held at Bonifacio Naval Station Church, Fort Bonifacio at 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 12, 2003. Interment will immediately follow at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"For we know that when this tent we live in — our body here on earth — is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home He himself has made, which will last forever." (taken from Corinthians 4:16-5:7)

Forever in our hearts...

We remember our beloved

ATTY. JOSE SANTIAGO ATIENZA

Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre

who joined his Creator on 10 September 1998

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated today in the following churches:

Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows, *Quezon City*	6:00 AM 7:00 AM 6:00 PM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, *Welfareville, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 AM
St. Peter's Parish Church, *Apalit, Pampanga*	6:00 AM
Parish of the Resurrection, *BF Homes I, Parañaque City*	6:30 AM
Crypt of St. Nicolas of Tolentine, *Lakewood City, Cabanatuan City*	6:30 AM
Nuestra Señora del Pilar, *San Simon, Pampanga*	7:00 AM
St. Andrew Cathedral, *La Huerta, Parañaque City*	6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	6:15 PM
Villa San Miguel Chapel, *VSM Compound, Mandaluyong City*	6:30 PM

His wife **Esther M. Cacnio**; his children/in-laws **Paz**, **Jun** and **Rae**, **Manny** and **Rona** and **Michael**; and his grandchildren **Junella**, **Julianne**, **Justinne**, **Lyka**, **Mico** and **Tricia** request the pious readers to say a prayer for his eternal repose.

ROSARIO ITCHON SANCHO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 21, 2003 at the age of 76. in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Her loving husband **RAYMUNDO** (†); children **REBECCA**, **ROWENA**, **ROSEANNA**, **RUBY**, **REMEDIOS**, **MARIA ROSARIO**, **RAFAEL** and **REGINA THERESA**; children-in-law **ALBERTO TORRES**, **ENRIQUE ABREU**, **MANOLO HERRERA**, **THERESA ACOSTA** and **ISAAC DAVID AMPIL II**; grandchildren **KATHLYN**, **EDRIC**, **JOE**, **CHUCK**, **KATRINA**, **FRANCIS**, **CARMELA**, **RAYA**, **MICHAEL** and **ANGEL**, surviving siblings, **JOVITA DIAZ** and **DOMINGO ITCHON** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A mass to celebrate her birth to eternal life was held last August 25, 2003 at the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Church in Mississauga. Interment was held, after cremation of her mortal remains, last August 26, 2003 at the Assumption Cemetery, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Bobby,

Thirteen years have drifted,
since our lives suddenly parted.
An eternity seemed to have passed,
yet my love for you continues to lasts.

How I longed for you to stay by my side,
simply to remain as my loving guide.
To hold your hand once more I prayed,
to re-live the memories that stayed.

I hope you will always know,
how much I missed you so.
How I hoped & prayed, our moments together
to have lasted thirteen times longer.

Minnie

ROBERTO (Bobby) G. JONGCO

In Loving Memory

on the 13th Anniversary of **Roberto "Bobby" G. Jongco's** re-union with the Lord, the following masses will be offered today for his eternal rest.

Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish Church, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 A.M. 6:30 P.M.
Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish Church, Sta. Elena, Marikina City	6:15 A.M.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Philam Village, Las Piñas	6:00 A.M.
St. Don Bosco Parish Church, Makati City	7:30 A.M. 12:15 NOON 6:00 P.M.

Minnie, Rovi & Sheila, Tina & Nolan wish to thank our relatives and friends who have been praying for **Bobby's** peace in the garden of our Lord.

Concepcion Tañada Silos

Returned to her Creator on 8 September 2003 at the age of 65.

Her beloved husband **Nardi**; sons **Ramy**, **Randy**, **Monty** and **Jojo Roxas** (with the late **Andy**); **Kim** and **Mig Silos**; daughters-in-law **Bo**, **Lindy**, **Tina**, **Rica** and **Sonia**; grandchildren, **Alexis**, **Lean**, **Ramby**, **Joshua**; **Nikki**, **Tea**, **Matteo**; **Julian**, **Alyssa**, **Andy**; and **Gabriela**; parents **Lorenzo** (†) and **Expedita** (†); sisters **Myrna**, **Millette**, **Tessie**; brothers **Greg** (†), **Tito**, **Nats** (†), **Bobby**, **Learny** request friends and the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Celerina Crisostomo Hizon, 85

JOINED her creator at about 3 a.m. of Sept. 9, 2003. She is survived by her sisters Catalina Crisostomo-Felix and Anastacia-Crisostomo Salientes; her children Dely and Eddie, Ben and Lody, Rolly and Ella, Celso and Linda, Ver and Diana, Nellie, Aida and Peping, Rizal and Cynnia and Boyet; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Floresco Funeral Homes, on Gen. Luna St., Malabon. Interment is on Saturday, September 13 after a 2 p.m. Mass.

HERMINDA LAGGUI CHUA

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on September 8, 2003 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children and grandchildren:
Lilia & Juan
Arlene, Arnold, Abel, Toto, Tata, Alex & Alma
Miming & Tereng
Ferdie, Gina, Ann, Philip & Niña
(†) Dentor & Helen
Rowena, Dodong, Boboy & Mona
Ben & Ising
Jane, Lingling, Jun-Jun & Nat-Nat
(†) Jimmy & Linda
Jocelyn, Jessica, Jenniffer & Joseph
Meo & Beth
Cris, James, Dudong & Bebeth
Tony
Robin

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Recto, Manila and will be brought to Cabagan, Isabela on September 11, 2003 at about 2:00 a.m. Interment will be on September 14, 2003 at Cabagan, Isabela.

"You will be forever be in our hearts, Mama"

Remedios Corral Acuña

Of Sorsogon, Sorsogon
September 9, 1910 – September 8, 2003

Joined her Creator on September 8, 2003 at the age of 92.

Her daughters **Monina A. Duran** and **Belen A. Granado**; son **Rolando C. Acuña**; daughter-in-law **Josefina Acuña**; sons-in-law **Jose Duran** and **Oscar Granado**; grandchildren **Towie**, **Sarah**, **Irene**, **Debbie**, **Jerome**, **Ricky**, **Rosemarie**, **Imelda**, **Rowena**, **Dino** (†), **Eric**, **Retchie**, **Wowie**, **Twinkle** and **DT**; great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 6B, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

THE AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
Request you to recommend to God in your prayers and sacrifices the soul of our dear

SISTER MACARIA SANTIAGO JAVIER, OSA

who passed away on September 9, 2003 at the age of 54

May she rest in Peace!

Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, September 11, 2003 at 8:00 a.m.

AT THE LA CONSOLACION CONVENT CHAPEL, 273 SANTOLAN ROAD, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA.

INTERMENT WILL FOLLOW AT THE LA LOMA CEMETERY immediately after the Mass.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."
—1 Corinthians 2:9

HONORIO SONGCO REGALA

of Bancal, Guagua, Pampanga
October 12, 1932 – September 8, 2003

He is survived by his wife **Leonila Antonio Regala**, children **Leonor & Audie, Romeo & Omniciensa, Juliet & Diosdado, Rommel & Leonora, Rodrigo & Annie, Rolando & Leng, Ronald & Gigi, Roger & Nanette, Rosalito & Sarah, Ruby & Leo, Richard & Blessie** and **Ma. Midea**, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His body lies in state at his family residence in Barangay Sta. Rita, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

SAMUEL LIVELO FERNANDEZ SR.

Born: April 7, 1934
Peacefully joined his Creator on September 8, 2003

His bereaved family: Wife, **Concepcion Belarmino Fernandez**; Sons, **Erwin**, **Bong** and **Sam Jr.**; Daughters, **Marisse** and **Elaine**; Daughters and Sons-in-law, **Joyce**, **Edna**, **Rowel** and **Edward**; Grandchildren, **Joey** and **Je-anne**; **Aaron**, **Lark**, **Paulo** and **Trixie**; **Bianca**, **Lawrence** and **Martin**; **Denise** and **Louie** (in Canada) Brothers, **Loel** and **Bebet** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 13, 2003 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Is my consultant getting the job done?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I just took over the management of a manufacturing plant and discovered I've inherited two consultants. Neither is on a long-term contract and I'm wondering if there are any accepted ways to evaluate consultants to decide if I should keep them on the payroll?

Fish Or Cut Bait

I'm a sucker for a great slogan, and I saw the best slogan ever while driving on a country road a few years back. It was on a sign that advertised a combination veterinarian/ taxidermy shop. Written in red script across the bottom of the sign were the immortal words, "Either way you'll get your pet back."

I always think of that sign when the subject of consultants comes up. For one thing, in today's downsized workplace, consultants are multiplying faster than rabbits. For two things, they often do little more than add insult to injury. But then, consulting isn't the world's third oldest profession for nothing. There are times when a consultant can provide insight, special expertise, or an extra set of hands to tackle a difficult problem. So you're right to evaluate the usefulness of your pair. The following questions, adapted from the Managers Desk Reference by Cynthia and Charles Fink (Amacom, 1996), should help:

Do the skills provided by the consultants already exist within your organization? If so, no point paying outsiders. Especially since nothing deflates employees' tires more than feeling sidestepped in the search for solutions. So see what you've got in-house before committing to the "experts."

Have these consultants been earning their keep recently? If there's one question to ask a consultant it's "what have you done for me lately?" Then demand specific answers. If what they say smacks of sizzle, but lacks the steak, it's probably time to part ways.

Are your consultants tailoring their solutions to your needs, or have they got you in a one-size-fits-all package? Generic solutions aren't much good when you've got customized circumstances and problems. So make sure you're getting what you need-not just what they can offer.

Are your expectations realistic? As you evaluate their performance, keep in mind that you're working with consultants, not Mother Teresa. If your company was a mess, they may legitimately need more time to achieve results (although you should be seeing signs of progress). Make sure you're providing them adequate support-then expect progress, but not a miracle.

Is the company becoming dependent on the consultants? If they're providing skills you need on an ongoing basis, either bring them in-house or have them train your people. You want to own the skills you need for daily operation. I hope that helps. Evaluating consultants is not always easy. But I think if you listen to the Finks, your consultants won't put you in a funk.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

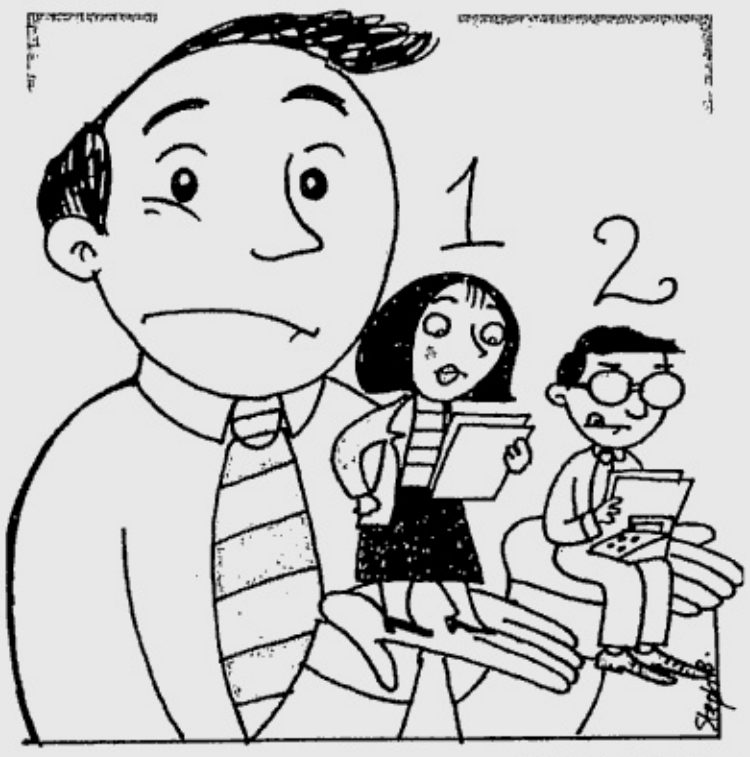

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Tame the 'Desktop Monster'

By F. John Reh

DO you want to get rid of the piles of accumulated paper on your desk? Here's how.

Rule #1: The most important rule to remember in dealing with the paperwork monster on your desk is to handle each piece only once:

As you pick up a piece of paper that has just shown up in your inbox, be prepared to make that the last time you touch it. Ask yourself "why do I need this?" If the answer is a) to take action on it, b) to do something with it when I get more information from someone, or c) to refer to as I do other work, keep it. If the answer is anything else, throw it away.

If it is something you aren't going to deal with, trash it now. Don't set it down to get back to it later. Don't kid yourself by thinking you might do what the paper asks if you know in your gut you won't. Bite the bullet. Get rid of it now and go on to the next piece.

If the paper pertains to something you are going to do, do it now. Don't set the paper down to think about it, or to look at the next one. Take action. Answer it. Send it to someone who can take action. Make the phone call to give the writer the requested information. Deal with it now so you don't have to touch that piece again.

Rule #2: Sometimes. you have to bend Rule #1. Sometimes you can't deal with an issue right now and be done with it. Sometimes you have to handle a document more than once. In these cases, the important thing is to handle each piece as few times as possible.

If something comes in that you can't handle because you don't have the information, try to finish it up right now. Call the person who has the information you need and stick with Rule #1. However, it that person isn't available, set it up to minimize the number of times you have to touch it. Don't throw the paper back in you inbox, or into a pile on your desk. Put it into your calendar or date file for follow-up at a specific time.

Some people keep an accordion file that that has a pocket for each day of the month. They put documents they need to follow up on into the pocket for the day they are going to follow up. If the person you need input from is out to lunch, put the paper in the tomorrow pocket. However, if they are on a trip for two weeks, put it in the pocket for the day they return.

The reference diet

The third reason for keeping something that shows up on your desk is to refer to it as you do other work. Minimize the material in this category. Put yourself on a reference diet. Slim down the references wherever possible.

Ask your self whether you really need to keep the document for reference. Is it something you REALLY need or something you MIGHT need? Don't keep it just because you MIGHT need it. Keep as little as you absolutely can.

What documents you do keep for reference should themselves be put on the reference diet. Slim them down as much as you can. If a ten-page report contains a one-page list of currency conversion rates, for instance, that you need for later, keep the one page and toss the other nine.

The reference material you do keep should be filed away right now so you only handle it once. Don't set it in a "to be filed" pile. File it right now with the project with which you will use it.

As you handle each new piece of paper that comes to you, be ruthless in your decisions. Take no prisoners. If you really don't need it, toss it. And be brave. Don't put something into your reference materials just because someone might ask you something about it someday.

Don't build a fortress of paper to protect yourself. You can tame the paperwork monster now.

(Reprinted with permission from management.about.com*)*

IBM hot, Lilly not for workplace privacy

WASHINGTON—International Business Machines Corporation is least likely to snoop on its employees, while drug maker Eli Lilly and Co. is the most notorious Big Brother boss, Wired magazine said in its October edition.

The technology magazine surveyed watchdog organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union and the Privacy Foundation to determine which large, publicly traded companies were the best and worst for workplace privacy.

IBM took top honors for its efforts to scrub Social Security numbers from health-care records, while Lilly received black marks for its invasive background checks of workers after Sept. 11, 2001, some of which led to dismissals.

Hewlett-Packard Co. and Baxter Healthcare won plaudits for their vigilant protection of internal employee records, while Ford and Sears were praised for voluntarily signing on with stringent data-protection laws in Europe and California.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Hilton Hotels Corp. were criticized for secretly taping employees, while the New York Times Co. drew hisses for requiring doctors to disclose employee medical records. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. also made the list of Big Brother bosses for its 2001 attempt to fight workers' compensation claims with genetic testing. *Reuters*

Nestle battles labor unrest in South Korea

CHEONGJU, South Korea—Swiss multinational Nestle on Wednesday joined the growing list of foreign firms bristling at labor unrest, saying it is considering pulling out of South Korea as a result.

Nestle, operating in South Korea for more than two decades, has already closed its local headquarters in Seoul.

"Our head office has instructed us to consider legal steps for the closure of Nestle's plant in South Korea," a Nestle Korea spokeswoman told AFP.

She said Nestle's management was exasperated by "reckless" labor action by workers affiliated with the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), a militant labor group.

The group has led a wave of labor strife, demanding shorter working hours and union participation in management decision-making, which has already led to the closure of four foreign-invested firms operating in South Korea this year.

Nestle Korea's 460-member union went on strike on July 7 demanding an 11.7 percent pay hike and a say in management. The company has proposed a 5.25 percent wage increase.

About 400 striking workers, however, ignored the company's warning and vowed to stage an "uncompromising" struggle during a rally at the plant here in Cheongju, 140 kilometers (84 miles) south of Seoul.

The strikers wearing red headbands waved flags or raised their fists into the air, chanting "job security" and vowing to continue their walkout.

The walls of the factory were plastered with slogans demanding labor "solidarity" and union activists handed out leaflets accusing the company of pushing for unilateral corporate restructuring.

The food company launched operations in South Korea in 1979 to produce and distribute coffee, beverages and confectionery. It now controls 40 percent of South Korea's coffee market.

Nestle Korea complained its competitiveness has been seriously undermined by militant union activity and double-digit wage increases in the past three years.

"Its very regrettable for Nestle to study the closure of domestic operations," Nestle Korea president Sam Lee said.

Nestle Korea denounced what it sees as illegal sit-in protests and violence by unionized workers.

"Nestle will abide by the 'no work, no pay' principle. Proper labor activity will be respected but the company will not tolerate union interference in management," it said in a statement.

The company has already filed a suit against union leaders for violating management and property rights.

"Their wages are higher than average," the spokeswoman said, refusing to disclose figures on Nestle Korea's sales and wages.

South Korean workers saw a double-digit increase in their monthly wages during the first six months of the year despite a fall in working hours, according to a labor ministry report Wednesday.

Foreign investors and South Korean business leaders have expressed alarm at South Korean labor militancy. Strikes have cost the country billions of dollars in lost production and exports this year, notably at auto companies including local market leader Hyundai Motor.

The government in turn has been criticized by business for failing to crack down on illegal industrial action. *AFP*

How to manage ...

From page B8

rounding all office politics. Whether it is a message that started the problem, or the back and forth messages that add fuel to the fire, email offers little solution. The same can be said of text messages. Very often, people sitting besides or across each other send and receive email or text messages. It is far better to get up from your desk, walk over to your colleague or to your boss, and make communication a face-to-face two-way process. Make eye contact and ask open-ended question such as "What do you mean?" "How do you want that worded?" as you look at the body language, facial expression, tone of voice, and other non-verbal signals.

Best response

5. If you want to minimize office politics, because you can't avoid it, don't feed it. Don't complain about work situations, talk about and complain about other office workers. If you complain about others, you can be sure others will also complain about you. Your comments to a complaint will only add "fuel to the fire." The best response when someone comes to you with a complaint is "Have you told him/her about this?" If the answer is "no," end with, "Then I think you should!" Then, smile and leave it at that. Your message is: "Don't say anything about anyone that you wouldn't say if they were in the room." Along this line, it is also not fair to badmouth your boss, criticize or complain about him.

If you hear that someone had been promoted to a position you are aspiring for, get the facts from a reliable source. If you cannot go to get the facts from the recommending or approving person, go to the HR Head. You can say: "I thought I am more qualified for the position better than Bobby but maybe I have not considered other factors in his favor. Can you please tell me the reasons why Bobby got the promotion? I simply want to be clarified. Then, I can put this matter aside." Then, listen and open your mind and heart.

Other rules

Here are other rules to minimize office politics.

Be a part of multiple networks, not just one. Communicate with your networks often, and in the ways that work best for them and for you.

Evaluate behavior of other people in the organization within the context of the organization, not against some idealized standard. Every organization has a unique culture. Stop comparing your present organization with your previous organization in a negative light. If you often so, then, you should have remained there.

Watch other people at work and identify positive and successful behaviors that you can emulate.

Look for win-win ways to resolve conflict.

Rules for managers

If you are a manager, here are additional rules.

1. Always stress performance and make sure you do as you say. Rewards must be given based on merit, not granted in return for favors. Never ask for personal favors, nor ask for gifts. Don't spend after office hours with one subordinate or with a group of your employees more often than you would with others. Base promotions, assignments and merit increases on performance. This implies that your organization has a reliable basis for measuring performance.

2. Accept recommendations based upon their merit, not on whether you personally like the person making the recommendation. Conversely, reject recommendations because they are unsound, not because the person making the recommendation has a history of resisting your ideas or fighting your proposals.

3. Communicate everything. Open communication about promotions, new plans, changes, bad news-anything that affects the workplace-makes it hard for rumor and innuendo to thrive. Managers, who fully explain their decisions and the reasons for making them, help immunize their culture against deal making and favoritism.

4. Avoid political behavior such as promoting a person to get rid of her because she is a "devil's advocate" in meetings, or promoting someone you know is not qualified just because you can depend on him to support you and to do what you want him to do. Such political decisions crush teamwork and erode trust in you and commitment to the overall goal.

No favorites

5. Don't play favorites. And never have romantic or sexual interest with any one of your subordinates. This is a big no-no. Nothing feeds office politics more than the boss giving preferential treatment to a favored person, or even to a chosen few. You don't get the support and commitment of the others in your team. They won't like the favored one, especially if she starts behaving as though she is the "power behind the throne." They won't like you, either.

6. Listen to what people tell you. Don't accept everything at face value. Validate. Do a reality test. If the information you get is accurate, resist the temptation to go on a witch-hunt to find who leaked it. If the information is false, don't make an emotional public announcement. Just state the truth simply.

7. Give as much accurate information as you possibly can. Prevent rumors by consistently leveling with employees. Correct false rumors immediately. Communicate in person whenever you can. Memos, email and verbal comments that get passed through numerous people are usually wide open to interpretation.

8. Don't try to kill the grapevine. It's human nature for people to want to exchange "inside information" about what's happening in the office. Too many attempts to manage the flow of information will make employees suspect you're covering something up. But feed the grapevine with accurate information.

Professional relationship

You cannot eliminate office politics just because you don't like it. But you can certainly make the rules work in your favor by understanding what they are, how they work, and more importantly, who is the man or the woman with the authority to give you a raise, promote you or fire you. Develop a professional relationship with the person based on your excellent performance.

If you are not willing to accept that office politics exist and that you must learn the rules to manage it, then you might want to seriously consider self-employment as the viable professional route to success, so that you can be the captain of your career ship and the master of your destiny.

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc, a leading career development consulting and training company in the country. Email your feedback to carsys@qinet.net. Visit the website of Career Systems, Inc. at www.careersystems.com.ph*)*

PEOPLE at WORK

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

MANAGING YOUR CAREER TO THE TOP

How to manage office politics

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This series on Managing Your Career to the Top, particularly the articles on office politics, has generated a lot of feedback. It is a frank and courageous discussion by the author, one of the pillars of career development here in the Philippines, of the various sensitive, and often unmentionable, issues affecting career growth. There are many who find that the series is an accurate assessment of the realities in the workplace. Others, who have had negative, and even traumatic experiences at work, have reacted negatively, particularly to the author's advice on boss-staff working relationships. Truly, the impact of "office politics" is far-reaching. Since this is a concern of many, if not all working people, this section is publishing this sixth and final installment of the series, if only to bring to the limelight controversial issues for appropriate examination. - PaW Editor)

THE BEST strategy in managing office politics is to modify your view of it. Rather than see it in a negative way, try to recast it in a positive light. You'll be most effective if you can deal with the way people are, not the way you think they should be. The reality is you cannot simply stay in your work station, go to the comfort room, take your snacks while doing work, and take lunch after all the others had gone back to work.

Unwritten rule

One of the few unwritten rules of organizational culture is that it's not enough to do a great job. You must also know to whom to communicate that you've done a good job so that your good job will be recognized. The need for recognition and status is as natural as the need for food, clothing and shelter. Recognition, whether in the form of a "pat on the back," or getting a high rating of five in the performance appraisal, or getting a promotion or a choice assignment, is the "psychological oxygen" that makes us go, glow and grow, in any setting. It's not enough to write an excellent proposal, to prepare a winning presentation, or to design a foolproof system. It pays to know who will make the decision to accept, reject or hold the product we have developed or produced. Even if your and your team's work is accepted, there is still the budget needed for it. Again, who approves the budget and decides when it will be released?

In any game, in order to succeed you must know the rules. Office politics can be the most competitive game of all. The stakes are quite high—succeed and you get what you want, e.g. assignment, promotion, budget for the project, or lose and you are put in the freezer or your proposal or project gathers dust. When dealing with office politics, having a set of rules is a good idea.

Rules for employees

If you are an employee, and a productive and high potential one at that, here are some rules:

1. Open your eyes and ears and keep your mouth shut. Never be the bearer of news from one person in one camp to another person in the other camp. Even if you are giving the exact quotes, you are apt to be misquoted and your quotes twisted to serve the other camp's ends.

2. If you are new in a job and in a company, it's tempting to latch on to a person or to a small group fast because of your need to belong and to feel secure. The danger is that you may be aligning with the wrong group and you won't know it until it's too late. It's better to be friendly with everybody and listen to all to get the full range of opinions. If you don't favor one faction over another, you'll be able to array all of the different points of view and validate their legitimacy against your own observations. Keep your observations to yourself. Even if you are asked, be objective: describe the situation and people's behaviors in that situation.

Listening helps

3. Listen, instead of talk. There are benefits to listening. You minimize the opportunity to say anything stupid or ill-advised that you will later regret. People who like to talk like people who like to listen. Mastering the art of paraphrasing and summarizing what people say helps them to clarify their thoughts and feelings, especially to themselves. Also, your silence can make the talker/speaker uneasy. People who are uneasy tend to chatter more than they should. Sometimes, the chatter reveals information that is not intended to be revealed. And this is all the better for you.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

4. Communicate face-to-face rather than by email or text. The email has been referred to as an "evil" communication tool sur-

HOW TO MANAGE/ B7

Pinoy-Russian wanderer settles down as management consultant-cum-writer in US

CAREER TALES

PHOTO BY YSABEL SCHULD

TAGATAC with 14-year-old daughter, Mara

By Ysabel San Pedro-Schuld

AFTER traveling around the world, Pinoy-Russian Geronimo Tagatac carved his own career niche as a management consultant on e-commerce and e-government in the Business and Technology Department, Information Resources and Management Division of State of Oregon. But in the midst of business concerns, Tagatac is also immersed in writing American Asian articles and reaching for his Filipino roots in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Tagatac was born to an Ilocano father, Tagatac Sr., and a Russian Jew mother, Augusta Finkelstein. He relates that his mother was a Russian refugee from New York and his father was a farmer who pursued the "American Dream." Tagatac Sr. was originally from Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Bitten by the writing bug

Tagatac said that it was only ten years ago that he started writing. His stories had been published in several publications namely, The Writer's Forum, Orion, Mississippi Mud, Northwest Review, River Oak Review, Alternatives Magazine, among others.

In 1997, Tagatac was awarded the Oregon Literary Arts Fellowship and in the summer 2001 and 2003, he was invited to teach at the Fishtrap Fellowship, a summer writing fellowship that has several different workshops in fiction, poetry, nonfiction, songwriting and publishing. During the summer 2001, Tagatac taught "Magical Realism," and this summer 2003, he will teach "Difficult Characters in Fiction".

Conscious of his Pinoy roots, he said that he wanted to know more about Filipino writers who write in English. He would also like to meet Ilocano writers, too.

Asked about Filipino writers who he has read and admired, he said he likes Carlos Bulosan, whose life story similar to his father's. He was also quick to mention Jose Rizal and Jessica Hagedorn, known for her novel, "The Dog Eaters."

Tagatac's favorites include fiction writers, Ray Carver, Gina Berriault who wrote "Woman in their Beds" Collection of Short Stories, and Gina Ochsner who won the Flannery O'Conner Award for her Collection of Short Stories, "The Necessary Grace to Fall."

Currently, Tagatac is planning to get an agent to publish his short story collection called "The Weight of the Sun."

Tough childhood

Tagatac and his younger sister Joan moved from Connecticut, where he was born, to New Orleans. Tagatac recalls how unsettling it was to be the "new boy in the block" but he did not mind it since he was too young to realize the impact of divorce when his parents parted ways when he was five and Joan was only two.

"My father was an independent fisherman and there was a time when we lived on his boat." He also had to adjust at a young age to his father's new family when Tagatac Sr. remarried a Cajun, Laura Lytle, with whom he had three more children, Shirley and the twins , Roland and Roselyn.

At the age of 15, Tagatac recalls that he helped his father in the vegetable farms. "I worked in the fields-weeded onions, thinned the lettuce, picked beans, cabbage, squash, corn, cauliflower, you name it, we did it!"

It was also during that time that he became fascinated with Physics and took the San Jose State College Entrance Exams, After passing that test, Tagatac supported himself by singing folk songs in the pubs and coffee shops during the early 60s. He also worked as dishwasher, ship cargo worker among others.

War experience

At the age of 22, Tagatac was drafted, but he enlisted as an Airborne infantryman. He passed the special forces exam and was trained to be a demolitions specialist on the Special Forces A Team.

"We were in teams of 12 and we were taught to train the soldiers for insurgency operations. We put up expedient bridges and call for mock explosions to train our forces for ambushes and other guerilla tactics. At Fort Bragg, we set up barbed wires, mine fields, field fortifications and makeshift hamlets during our training operations. We did a lot of parachute jumps." He recalled it was a hectic one-year course. This prepared him to be part of the 7th Special Forces, at Fort Bragg, and the 5th Special Forces, in Vietnam where he served from 1965 to 1966. He was stationed at the Phu Quoc island south of Camau Peninsula in the Gulf of Siam.

After his stint in Vietnam, he went back to San Jose State, California and finished his Bachelors and Masters degrees in History at the San Jose State College. The Ilocano in his blood prevailed as he explored the Old Civilizations of Europe. He traveled in England, France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Czech Republic, Spain and Italy staying in hostels and riding the crest of "joie vivre."

Political concerns

He pursued his doctoral degree in Political Science at the University of California in Davis and during that time, he got a scholarship that enabled him to study Mandarin. "I was in Taiwan for a year from 1975 to 1976." He indicated that during that time he was a leftist. "I was an anti-war activist. Between 1977 and 1978, I lived on the HK Island. It was before the normalization of US-China relations." Due to various distractions, he fell short of a dissertation in finishing his doctoral degree.

During the 80s, he was back in Davis, California where he worked in the California State Legislature's Assembly Office of Research. "I was assigned to draft legislation for the International Trade Commission, write the policies and reports for the legislative assembly."

After seven years in San Francisco and a year in Fremont, California, Tagatac was offered a job in Salem in 1989. "I got this job with the Oregon Public Utility Commission as a management analyst. Later, I was a rotation budget analyst with the Legislature's Ways and Means Committee."

Family

"I am now a single father. Mara, my daughter, who is 14 and is in high school grade 9, stays with her mom and I get her twice a week. I want her to experience and learn about America as well as the world at her own time."

Tagatac is a man who has traveled far and wide but who has remained grounded in his identity. As he fleshes out in one of his stories entitled "The Dance Class" published at the Chapultepec Press, his protagonist Mateo says "I could not have explained why I felt the need to wander among lovers, jobs, and homes. It was just that something eventually drained out of people and places and made them as flat as light on an overcast day. When that happened, I knew that it was time to go where the air was clear...where there was smell of new soil. But I always knew, from the first moment, I arrived, that want and loss would come again to drive me away..."

(Ms Schuld is based in Portland, Oregon, USA. She was a Manila-based business reporter of Business Star News and Hongkong-based foreign correspondent for Asia Technology Magazine. She graduated from St. Scholastica's College in 1983.)

A mother's hope, a child's dream

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

BECAUSE our office is within a broadcast complex, we never know what awaits us around the corner. Run for a cappuccino at the ground floor café and you might bump into Ai-Ai de las Alas doing her spiels at the pastry shop. Walking through our lobby at night, you might be startled by blood-curdling screams ("Taksil ka taksil!") and discover two drama regulars throwing lines at each other near the elevator well. Yesterday, corridors at our 13th floor-training center were lined with kids and stage mothers, clutching scripts, reciting their lines, emoting to blank space. It was audition time for a new soap opera and the Claudine and Juday wannabes came in droves.

Audition tension

I can never walk by an audition line without getting emotional. The tension, the high hopes, the cutthroat need to win are so thick in the air I choke. I don't know what it is. Maybe because I can see the fire in many a stage mother's eye and the mixed emotions in the kids they have in tow.

Yesterday, I chanced upon a mother and daughter in the office comfort room-they sat on the sill of the huge windows that overlooked the studios below, the broadcast tower across, and the hills of Montalban beyond. It was the only quiet place on the whole floor. The little girl was sleepy; she lay on her mother's lap, as her mother whispered the lines of the script into her ear. They had obviously been up very early to get to the studios on time.

They were now just waiting for their number to be called and mom didn't want to waste any time. Not even for rest.

I hurried into the nearest comfort room cubicle because I couldn't help feeling I was intruding-also because I was fighting back tears. There was something very powerful in this scene. At first, I was angry. I had only ill thoughts for a mother who could drag her daughter to harsh auditions, push her child into the limelight so that she could bask in the reflected glory. Her daughter was better off in school, I thought. But as I continued to listen to the mother's whispers, I sensed there was something else. When she paused between lines, probably thinking that her daughter was already asleep, the little girl prodded her own. She wanted to hear the lines, it was the daughter who didn't want to waste anytime. It was the daughter's dream they were pursuing.

Provider of dreams

At that very moment, I understood how powerful a mother's hope is. We are the provider of dreams. We identify what direction our child should take and we plot the way towards it. At the heart of every mother is the hope that our children's lives will be better than our own. At our core is the hope that despite everything that is going on around us-the economic uncertainties, the political dirt, and the overall cynicism-we can make things better for our children.

As working moms, we know what it is like.to aim at making a difference, it is a drive that will naturally rub off on our children. But our work takes so much of our energy. It zaps so much of our own optimism. In the rush to meet deadlines and to prove ourselves in the workplace, we may not leave enough room to dream for our kids, to wrestle with the impossible, and to infuse them with the conviction to dare and dream.

Today, find the quiet space amidst the chaos that is your life. Find the precious words to whisper in your child's ear and breath fire into their deepest wishes.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom published by ABS-CBN Publishing. For more tips, pick up this month's issue with Aiko Melendez on the cover. For comments, email an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.*)*

SEC restores moratorium on new pre-need firms

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has reimposed the moratorium on the creation of new pre-need companies.

However, in its resolution last week, the commission en banc said it would allow the creation of a new pre-need company only if the new company would "take over" the operations of an existing pre-need company.

The SEC's earlier moratorium on the setting up of new pre-need companies expired on April 30 last year.

The new resolution of the SEC also modified the exemption provision of the moratorium. The exemption provision of the previous moratorium covers companies that "acquire" the shares and/or the assets and liabilities of existing pre-need companies and that meet the P100-million paid-up capital requirement.

SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department director Emil Aquino said that some groups were interested in setting up new pre-need companies. The department, however, has been encouraging the groups to buy out existing pre-need companies, instead.

Aquino said the SEC wanted the smaller companies, particularly those that could barely comply with the SEC's capital and other requirements, to be bought out or taken over by the bigger ones.

The SEC's new pre-need rules require a minimum paid-up capital of P100 million as a market-entry requirement for new pre-need companies.

Pre-need companies can sell three types of pre-need plans if they have at least P100 million in paid-up capital; two types of plans if they have at least P75 million in capital, and only one type of plan if they have at least P50 million in capital.

Easing of 7th freedom rule sought

By Abigail L. Ho

A PROVISION in the Constitution preventing the country from granting seventh freedom to foreign air carriers is now obsolete and needs updating, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in an interview.

Mendoza said that modern technology now allowed "hubbing," or having a central location for the operations of air transport services in a specific region, which entails the exercise of seventh freedom by foreign carriers.

"When the Constitution was framed, no such technology allowed this (arrangement). That's why we requested the (Department of Justice) for help in determining the legality of the granting of seventh freedom," he told reporters.

Seventh freedom is the right to carry traffic between two foreign countries without connection to the home country.

Under the Constitution, an airline is considered a public utility and that it must be at least 60-percent Filipino-owned. These are the only airlines, cargo or passenger, that can fly from Manila to any point allowed in its numerous air transport agreements with other countries.

Foreign airlines servicing Philippine routes could not just fly to any destination in the world when taking off from Manila or any other Philippine gateway. A US flag carrier, for example, could not take off from Manila and bring passengers to Tokyo.

The Philippine air panel was firm in its position not to grant US cargo carriers seventh freedom. Air talks between the two countries last July bogged down because of this.

However, despite this Constitutional barrier to granting seventh freedom, US cargo carriers that have their hubs in the Philippines are able to fly directly to countries other than the US from their hubs here. *Abigail L. Ho.*

Bayan Trade finalizing deal with N. American counterparts

BAYAN Trade, the country's largest e-commerce facilitation firm is finalizing a partnership deal with North American procurement firms James Alexander and Perfect Commerce.

Bayan Trade is owned by major business conglomerates in the country, such as the Ayalas, Benpres, JG Summit, PLDT and United Laboratories.

The undertaking forms part of Bayan Trade's vision to diversity into foreign markets beginning next year. The plan is expected to further boost Bayan Trade's already high revenue, which is projected to reach about P130 billion this year, or almost double of last year's P68 billion.

Under the partnership agreement, Bayan Trade will provide the foreign procurement firms with a list of possible suppliers from the Philippines who can meet the demands of various North American purchasers. James Alexander and Perfect Commerce will serve as the channels through which North American purchasers may be reached.

"Through the partnership, Filipino exporters who are having a difficult time penetrating the North American markets may easily gain access to the vast potentials of the area," said Bayan Trade president Dante Briones in a briefing with reporters yesterday. *Michelle V. Remo*

Caltex investing ₱715M

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc., a ChevronTexaco company, is investing P715 million in 2003 to beef up its marketing operations and increase its presence in the country, underscoring the company's positive outlook on prospects for the industry here as well as its continued commitment as a partner in nation building.

Caltex country chair Tim Leveille said: "The Philippines remains one of our most attractive markets in the region, with great potential and opportunities for growth. We will continue to do things to expand our marketing presence here and improve the quality of services to our customers."

More than P300 million is earmarked for building world-class service stations throughout the country and for programs to further improve the company's retail operations.

At least 21 new stations are set to be built this year to increase the company's network to close to 900 stations nationwide.

More than P275 million is being invested to further enhance the company's marketing distribution capabilities.

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₱100,001 - ₱500,000	4.375%	4.625%	4.875%
₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.125%	6.375%	6.625%
₱5,000,001 and above	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
$ 500,001 and above	2.875%	2.875%	2.875%

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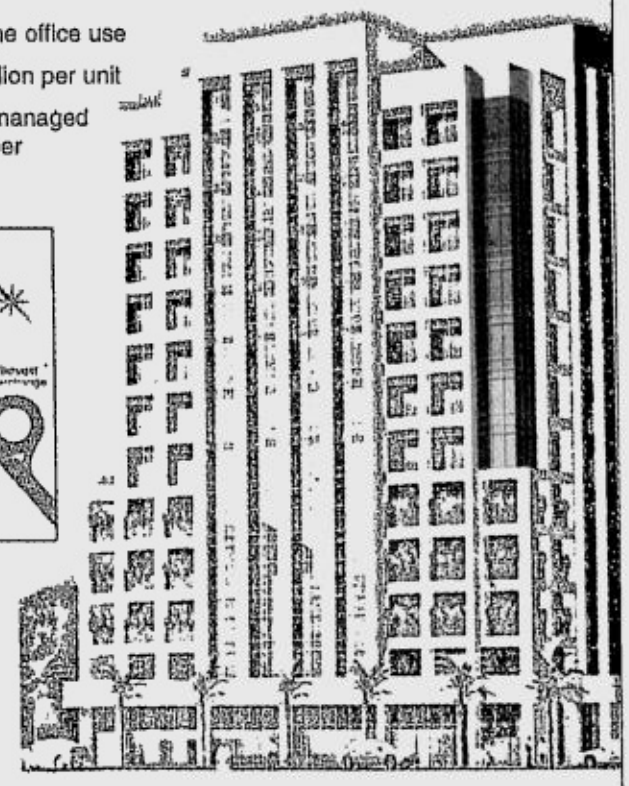

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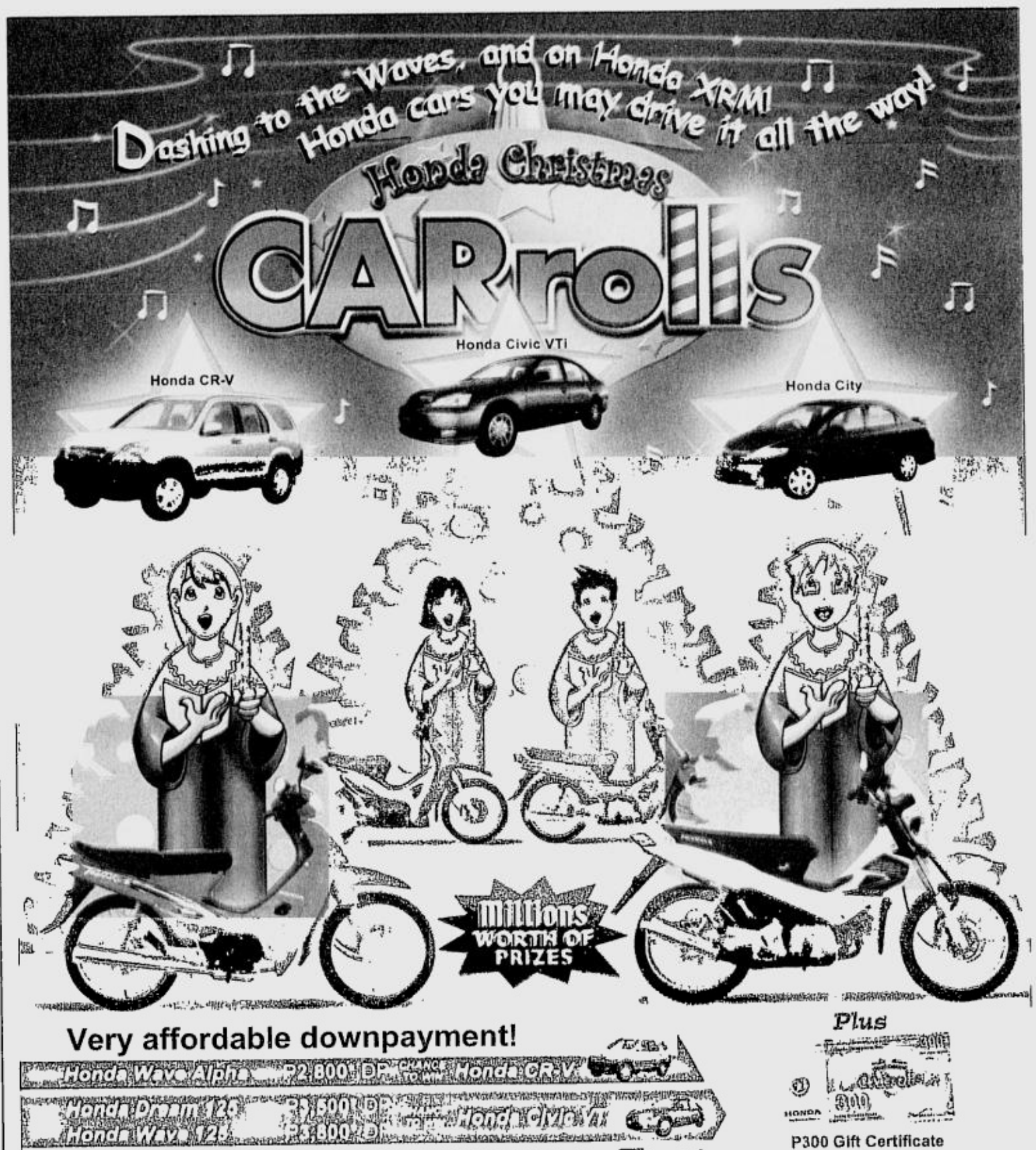

PROMO PERIOD: September 10, 2003 to December 15, 2003

MECHANICS

1. Every purchase of the following Honda motorcycle models entitles the buyer to a raffle ticket* that would give him/her a chance to win any of these corresponding prizes in the grand raffle draw.

Motorcycle Models	Grand Prize
A. Honda Wave Alpha	Honda CR-V
B. Honda Wave 125 or Dream 125	Honda Civic VTi
C. Honda XRM Dual Sports	Honda City

* The raffle ticket must be completely filled up with buyer's name, address, telephone number, engine frame number, dealer's name, date of purchase and signature affixed. The stub must be dropped in the corresponding raffle box among the three (3) designated drop boxes at the dealer shop. If the raffle ticket is dropped in the wrong drop box, the entry is automatically invalid. Also, the buyer instantly receives a gift certificate worth P 300 which can be used as a discount on the next unit purchase, on spare parts or motorcycle accessories.

2. Grand Raffle Draw will be held on a date to be announced by December 19, 2003 under the supervision of a DTI representative. Deadline for dropping of entries is on December 15, 2003.
3. Purchase of the Honda motorcycle models indicated above, must be made at any participating Honda dealer nationwide from September 10, 2003 up to December 15, 2003, in order to qualify for the promo.
4. Any participant can win only once in the grand draw. If name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize and the lower prize shall be raffled off again. The name appearing in the winning raffle ticket will be declared as the winner.
5. Winners will be notified through registered mail. When claiming prizes, winners shall present 2 valid ID's, registered mail notice together with the sales invoice and / or LTO registration of the motorcycle unit purchased.
6. All raffle prizes should be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification or the prizes will be forfeited with the prior approval from DTI.
7. All winners should claim their prizes at any of the following offices of Honda Philippines, Inc.: a) Km 17 East Service Road, South Superhighway, Parañaque City; b) Lahug, Cebu City; and c) Buhangin, Davao City.
8. The decision of Honda Philippines, Inc., with the concurrence of DTI, on issues that may arise during the promotion will be deemed final.
9. All prizes are tax-free and are not convertible to cash. Also, all registration requirements of the prize should be the responsibility of the winner.
10. All employees of Honda Philippines, Inc., its affiliates, dealers, advertising agency, and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified in the promo.
11. Promo period is from September 10, 2003 up to December 15, 2003. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3758, Series of 2003.

THE PIONEER IN 4-STROKE TECHNOLOGY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

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aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Industry leaders to kick off Pifce 2003

ASPIRING franchisees and entrepreneurs are expected to swamp the Philippine International Convention Center where industry leaders from various sectors will open the Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (Pifce) at 5 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 11.

Leading in the Pifce 2003 ribbon-cutting rites at the Forum Hall of the PICC are former Trade Secretary Vicente Paterno, TV host Ces Drilon, Philippine Airlines president Avelino Zapanta, expo chair Robert Ocampo, and Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) chair Samie Lim and president Bing S. Limjoco, among others.

"The opening ceremony will be followed by a tour of the franchise exhibits and a fashion show by the Uniform Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines," Limjoco said.

The three-day event also includes business presentations that will be held from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. of the following day by Candy Corner, Goldilocks Bakeshop, Julie's Franchise Corp., and Mister Donut.

The third and last day will also feature seminars on multiplying your business through franchising, and the "A's to Z's of buying a franchise, including franchise opportunity workshops, according to Lim.

"To be highlighted by the expo are almost a hundred successful franchises that businessmen and entrepreneurs can venture into," Lim added.

These include McDonald's, Max's Restaurant, 7-Eleven, Chowking, Greenwich Pizza, Del Monte, Gourmet Café, and Potato Corner, among many others.

Non-food participants include Bayo, Bench, Center for International Education, Copylandia, Entrepreneur Philippines, Everything 100, Francorp Philippines, Freeway, Global Marketing, Informatics Holdings, Island Souvenirs, Kamiseta, Manel's Leathergoods, Mr. Quickie, Nestle Philippines, Nextmobile, PLDT, Surex, Unioil, and many more.

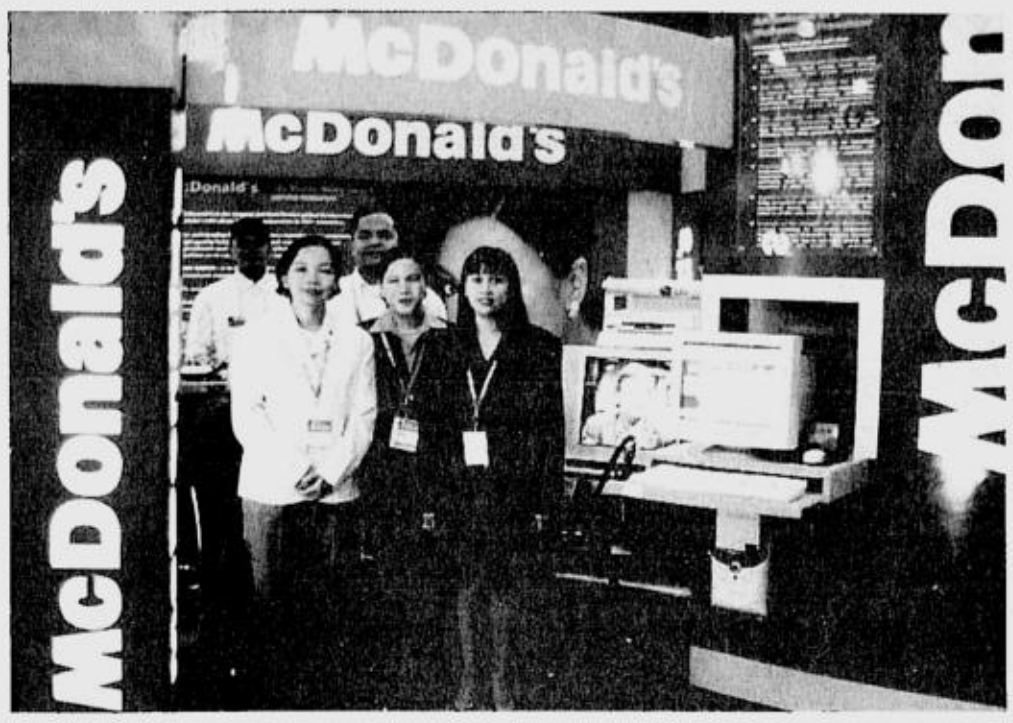
PFA records show the tremendous success of franchised businesses even during the hard times.

"This is because the continued profitability and competitiveness of the enterprise is virtually ensured as a result of the franchisors' market-tested business formula and track record of successful operation," Lim explained.

PFA records further show that franchising is the only business sector experiencing phenomenal growth in the Philippines over the years-from only 50 franchises in the early '90s to more than 700 at present. Even then, the Philippines and other Asian markets remain far from being saturated.

Organized by the PFA, the 11th Pifce is supported by the Philippine Retailers Association, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Department of Trade and Industry, Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation, and World Franchise Council.

This year's expo includes such new concepts as the First Philippine Business Licensing Show, Business Opportunity Pavilions, and the Incubation Center for Micro Enterprises in the Future Homegrown Franchises.



MCDONALD'S AT 11TH PIFCE

If you are waiting for an occasion where you would like to learn about McDonald's business and franchising, then the chance is in the upcoming 11th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (Pifce) 2003 from Sept. 11 to 14 at the Philippine International Convention Center. McDonald's regularly participates as this event presents an opportunity where local and foreign franchisers can showcase their business and expand it. Such is an opportunity not to be missed if you have questions and would like to know information on how to go about a franchise business. McDonald's is recognized as a premier franchising company as it is the largest and the best food service organization around the world. McDonald's franchising system is built on the premise that the corporation can be successful only if its franchisees are successful first. 'McDonald's care in recruiting, selecting, and training franchisee candidates and our unique relationship with our franchisees have been key factors in both our growth and the growth of our franchisees', says senior franchising manager Terry Yap.

MIT AWARDS NAMA

The Mapua Institute of Technology recently conferred an award to the premier Mapua alumni organization, the National Association of Mapua Alumni (Nama), in recognition of the Professorial Chair grant Nama has extended to selected Mapua faculty members in the field of basic sciences. The grant, named the Professor Arceli NF Hipolito Professorial Chair, was made available during the incumbency of Nama past president Cesar Bobby D. Castro (right) who, together with current Nama president Alfonso C. Supetran (2nd from left), received the award from Mapua president and CEO Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea and EVP-COO Milagros V. Reyes. Also shown at left is engineer Leticia Rosario Guevara, director of Mapua alumni liaison office.

Children's kidney disease: every clinician's concern

THE PEDIATRIC Nephrology Society of the Philippines, with Dr. Joel S. Elises as president, announced its 8th Annual Convention with the theme "Children's Kidney Disease: Every Clinician's Concern" to be held at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City from Nov. 19 to 21. Guest speaker is Dr. Frederick Jeffrey Kaskel, director of Pediatric Nephrology of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York.

Experts in Pediatric Nephrology will discuss interesting topics such as Nutrition Fads and Controversies, Growing Concerns on Chronic Renal Disease, Current Practices and Prospectives of Pediatric Nephrology, Kidney Stones, Options on Diagnosis and Treatment for the Local Setting, Urinary Tract Infections and Office Urology Practice, Hypertension, Nephrotic Syndrome, and Glomerulonephritis with Stimulating Interactive Sessions. Extra features include luncheon and twilight symposia.

Dr. Victor S. Doctor, vice president, together with the scientific committee, arranged the topics to be relevant, practical and applicable for general practitioners, residents in training and specialists for clinical practice. The overall coordinator, especially for Visayas and Mindanao, is Dr. Vivina C. Chiu, the Pediatric Nephrologist of Cebu City.

For particulars, call Dr. Vivina C. Chiu (Metro Cebu), Cebu Doctor's College Inc, Cebu City at (032)254-1237 or 253-7400, Evelyn P. Roda (Metro Manila) at 924-3601 local 2135, fax 924-2264. E-mail pnsp_8ac@edsamail.com.ph.

POWER TOURS PROMO WINNER

Powerbooks Specialty Store, in cooperation with Cathay Pacific, recently awarded the winner of the Power Tours Promo. Every purchase of a Simon and Schuster travel book at any Powerbooks Specialty Store entitled customers to a raffle coupon. Shown is grand prize winner Marie Claire Bernadette Cruz gladly receiving her prize from Cathay Pacific representative Jan Te and Powerbooks operations manager Gabby Licauco. The grand prize is an open dated ticket for two to Hong Kong courtesy of Cathay Pacific. Marie Claire also received two insulated bags and luggage tags from National Geographic. 48 consolation prizes of assorted Simon and Schuster travel books were also given away.

Country's first public forum on spirituality

THE HIGHEST Vision Spirituality Forum, probably the country's first public discussion medium on spirituality, will set the stage for avenues of participation for spiritual seekers who wish to explore new ways to discover and express their own unique spirituality in an atmosphere of unconditional love and total acceptance on Sept. 12, Friday, 6 p.m. at Powerbooks, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati. The public is invited. Admission is free; donations are most welcome.

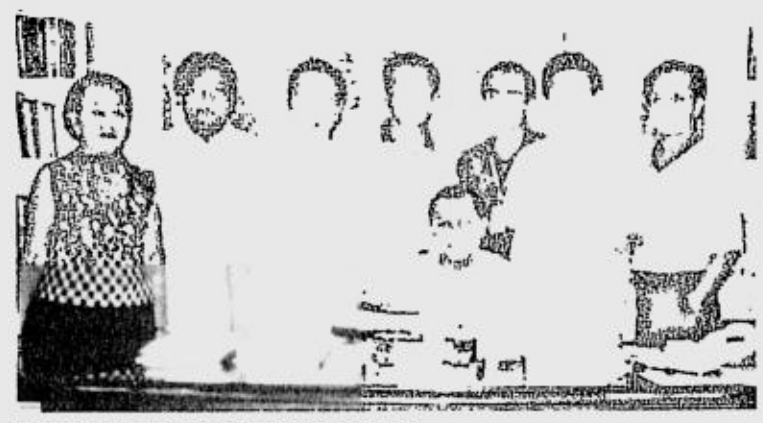
Due to limited seats, the public is requested to confirm attendance with The Highest Vision Foundation (HVF) vice president for membership Luwee B. Francia (842-4904 or 0917-4424573) and vice president for external affairs Nikie Jacinto-Lingad (0917-5298678). Inquiries may also be e-mailed to highestvf@yahoo.com. For more information, visit www.geocities.com/highestvf.

The forum will also feature Catholic spiritual leaders like Jesuit priest Fr. Joey R. de Leon who serves as retreat and spiritual director at the Ateneo de Manila University and visionary Catholic nun Sr. Lita Walker of Religious of Sacred Heart, who recently founded the Philippine Vipassana Meditation Society, will talk on the practice of meditation as a spiritual path. Celebrities like comedienne Tessie Tomas and wellness guru and columnist Cory Quirino will share their personal experiences and learnings on the spiritual path as they journeyed from entertainment to enlightenment. Top fashion model and TV personality Angel Aquino and former Miss World and radio host Vangie Pascual have also been invited.

At the same time, a brief orientation on its first retreat and workshop scheduled on Nov. 8 and 9 at the Martha's Vineyard, Estrella Street corner Amapola Street in Makati will be given by HVF vice president for retreats and workshop, Sujata S. Mukhi, a freelance professional facilitator, who has recently returned from a Conversations with God education conference in Oregon. The experiential activity will provide spiritual seekers the opportunity to examine at deeper level basic spiritual truths and render them functional in their daily lives. For inquiries and reservations, the public may call Jean M. Moya at 410-7449 and 410-7481 and Jon J. Natividad at 0917-8145121.

The event is organized by The Highest Vision Foundation Inc (HVF), a duly registered non-stock, non-profit spiritual organization based largely on what are considered two of the world's most powerful spiritual books, "Conversations with God" and "A Course in Miracles". Its board of trustees is composed of professionals from various fields of endeavors and is led by its chair Art L. Subijano, who also serves as chair of Networth Land Management Corp.

At present, HVF holds a study group on "A Course in Miracles" at the Java Man Café in the Arnaiz Avenue Powerbooks branch in Makati every Friday, 6 p.m. starting Sept. 19 facilitated by HVF secretary Pol M. Urbano (0916-9798991) and HVF executive vice president Sonny M. Faylona (0920-6087030).

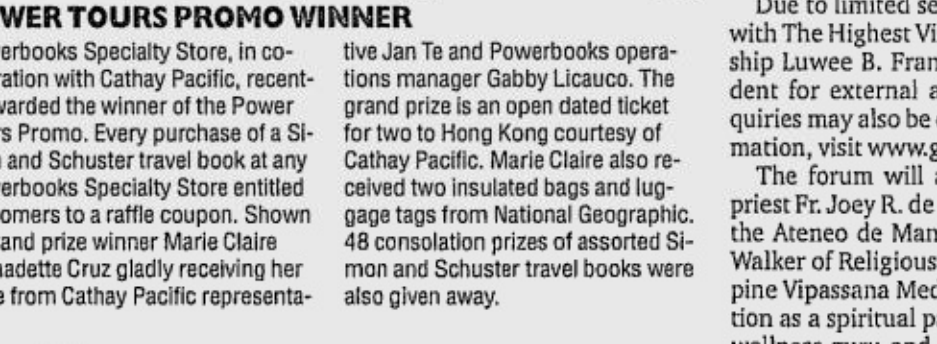


JOSENIANS' COURTESY CALL

Josenians Inc, the alumni association of the University of San Jose-Recoletos Cebu City-the governing board, recently paid a courtesy call to newly installed USJ-R president Fr. Constantino B. Real, OAR (seated center). Shown, from left, are sports committee chair Tony Flores, Eddie Diva of the scholarship, awards and recognition committees, auditor Bert Tribunal, homecoming co-chair Bernard See, president Ex Bollozos, treasurer Joboy Esmas, and secretary Roberta Lazaga. The grand alumni homecoming is on Sept. 13 at the Cebu Grand Convention Center. Nominations to the Search for the most outstanding USJR Alumni is ongoing. Deadline is Sept. 10.

ProductFILES

Start you career with Myway



IS THE company you're working for just providing employment opportunity and not a chance to reach your dream of establishing yourself as a self-made entrepreneur?

With Myway Philippines Corp, you can start reaching your goal of having not just a financially stable life but also an established source of income based on strong foundations and progressive retailing and distributing quality consumer products.

Operated by One Stop Source Inc, a firm with years of experience in distributing quality household products, sporting goods and apparel, Myway has its own marketing, sales training, administration and information technology departments to help investors reach their objectives.

If you want to start building a career with Myway, the company can be reached at its consumer hotline 365-5555 or 365-5556 local 555 or 888.

Clips

Angel's confab slated

IN CELEBRATION of the 400th year of the National Shrine of St. Michael and the Archangels in San Miguel, Manila, an "Angel's Conference" will be held on Sept. 10, Wednesday and Sept. 12, Friday from 2 to 5 p.m. inviting students from elementary to college. The venue will be at the San Miguel Church. The conference aims to heighten students' awareness of angels and their roles in our lives. Know your angel. Learn and understand the meaning of their presence. Make the best of each day by calling upon your guide. Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, former parish priest of San Miguel, will be the resource speaker. Surprise gift packs await all participants. Based on the theme presented in the lectures, an on-the-spot essay writing and art contest will be conducted on the same day of the conference.

SKAL tourism personality awards

SKAL International Makati announces the deadline for entries of nominees for its 16th SKAL Tourism Personality Awards slated on Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City, on Sept. 10. Patricio C. Alcaraz, chair of the SKAL nomination committee, said four winners for this awards will be selected from different travel and tourism sectors, namely transportation, hotel and resort, travel agency and tour operator and travel and tourism media. Entries should be sent to the SKAL Makati office at Abacus Distribution Systems, 3/F Trafalgar Plaza, 105 HV dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, or fax 817-5724. For inquiries, call 848-3890/93.

Dulaang UP stages Lorca play

DULAANG Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (Dulaang UP), the official performing group of the University of the Philippines, has for years taken the lead in producing plays of high quality that enhance the students' study of, and appreciation for, literature, humanities, the sciences, and other fields. On its 28th theater season, Dulaang UP continues its tradition of excellence through the staging of Frederico Garcia Lorca's "The Butterfly's Evil Spell/Ang Engkanto ng Mariposa", to be staged from Sept. 10 to 26 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater. For ticket inquiries and reservations, call Dulaang UP at 926-1349 or Laika Guzman at 0917-4001343 and Trineth Villasis at 0917-8970885. For sponsorships, call Ana Davila at 0919-4123013, or e-mail thebutterflysevilspell@yahoo.com

BANKING Quarterly

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Political jitters testing industry's resilience

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANKING system is again testing its resilience to withstand political and economic shocks that impact on their profitability and increase their operating risks.

A court order suspending Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura for a year defined the sentiment of the banking sector in the current quarter.

Political chaos preceding and following the suspension of Buenaventura and four other BSP officials is making the market really nervous as reflected by the continued deterioration of the local currency despite positive fundamentals—benign inflation, low interest rates, and a budget deficit that is within target.

Bankers added that with the unending rumors of another coup attempt against the Macapagal administration and political mudslinging in the run-up to the May 2004 elections, the scope to improve the balance sheet and rid it of billions in pesos of non-performing loans has narrowed.

But now more than ever, reforms in the financial markets must be completed to strengthen the banking system despite all these challenges, according to BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

"There is too much noise, but we expect things to stabilize once the decibel level has dropped and we could focus again on sound macroeconomic fundamentals," the BSP official said.

Tetangco noted that the central bank was in the forefront of initiatives to develop the country's capital markets and enhance the secondary market for trading of securities.

The BSP would sign with the Bankers Association of the Philippines very soon a memorandum of agreement for the Cash Settled Securities Swap Transactions or CSST.

The CSST would allow banks in need of liquidity to sell their securities but with the understanding that these would be bought back at a later date. The BSP allowed banks' dollar-deposit units to start engaging in securities lending but deferred the CSST until issues like taxation have been clarified.

An instrument similar to the CSST is the repurchase deals among banks and their clients. The central bank has legalized the sale of the so-called repos or buyback deals to widen the lenders' menu of services and help increase their profits while also helping deepen the capital markets.

"The BSP is also promoting the issuance of long-term negotiable certificates of deposits to establish a market for long-term funds," Tetangco said.

The three instruments—CSST, repos, and long-term NCDs—would be subject to a minimum reserve requirement of 2 percent as against the 16-percent reserve requirement on regular deposits.

"Banks should be more profitable as they increase their lending and also realize gains from foreign exchange trading," according to Buenaventura.

The second quarter performance would have been an ideal take-off point for a continued recovery this quarter as interest rates started to decline after pressures in the first three months of the year pulled up domestic rates.

Lower interest rates are important to banks as these reduce the carrying cost of holding huge amounts of bad loans and seized assets in their books.

As of the second quarter, the non-performing loans of commercial banks went down 0.7 percent or P18.85 billion to P243.41 billion from P262.26 billion in January to March.

During the same period, banks' total loan portfolio also improved 1.41 percent or P22.82 billion to P1.64 trillion from P1.62 trillion.

Bank lending had been growing by more than 3 percent in the first half, reversing the contraction during the same period in 2002.

But while increased credit could help bring down lenders' NPL ratio marginally, it could not single-handedly push down the level to the ideal single-digit from 15.19 percent as of June.

The more crucial step for banks is to sell their soured accounts and seized assets to special purpose vehicles entitled to tax incentives related to the take-out of the NPLs only until 2005.

The limited, two-year period for banks and asset management companies to take advantage of tax breaks in the Special Purpose Vehicle Act signed last January has not effectively catalyzed the sale of NPLs because of the huge pricing gap.

The going rate for the special purpose vehicles is to ask banks to sell the bad loans and assets at a 70- to 80-percent discount. Banks, on the other hand, do not want to take losses and have been trying to sell the NPLs at a rate inversely proportional to the offer of the AMCs.

"Banks have to realize that there has to be a certain pain-sharing. Some banks are still in denial but we can make life more difficult for them," Buenaventura said.

Among the big lenders, Philippine National Bank remained saddled with huge NPLs of P48.55 billion or 49 percent of its P99.07-billion loan portfolio. PNB's NPL ratio had eased from 53 percent equivalent to P48.85 billion or P92.17 billion in total loans.

United Coconut Planters Bank has not submitted its second-quarter results although its bad loans should decline by P12 billion after it signed in July a rehabilitation package with the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. that involved the purchase of NPLs.

The P20-billion assistance of PDIC to UCPB consisted of P7 billion in long-term subordinated debts.

In the first quarter, UCPB's bad loans stood at P20.08 billion or 39.11 percent of total loans while its capital had dropped by 21.2 percent to P2.86 billion. The ailing bank's return-on-equity plunged to a

POLITICAL/ B12

Banks pushing for short-term, risk-free options

MOST bankers say the country's market condition nowadays, which is very much affected by current political events, suggests that there is high risk in making investments. And so with the common practice of saving for future use, people should exercise prudence in choosing what investment instruments they should place their money in and how to handle their investments securely.

INQUIRER's Michelle V. Remo interviewed five bankers on what investment options they could recommend to people who have money to invest, but do not exactly know where to place them. Considering the current economic climate, here's what the bankers recommended.

DE LA CRUZ

Aida dela Cruz
Deputy head, trust department
May Bank

"RIGHT now, it is better to invest in short-term instruments because the movement of interest rates is quite unpredictable. The unpredictability of the market, apparently, is brought about by recent events in the political arena, which dampens investor confidence.

"For people who have P500,000, May Bank offers our Personal Living Trust. Under this investment option, clients will be entitled to an estimated rate of return of 5.5 percent, which matures after a minimum of 30 days.

"The Personal Living Trust is advisable for people looking for a secured yet better-yielding investment instruments. The 5.5 percent interest paid to investments in this instrument is already high considering the current market condition. It is also recommended especially during these times of uncertainty because clients are allowed to terminate their investments earlier than the maturity if they need to get their money back.. But of course, terminating one's investment in the Personal Living Trust prior to maturity will be subject to rate adjustments.

"From the 5.5-percent yield, a 10-percent value added tax, trust fee and withholding tax will be deducted.

"May Bank also offers a wide variety of other products like the escrow account, the pension provident fund account and the common trust fund. All these are advisable, but clients, especially those who cannot keep their money away for a long time, should remember that investing in risk-free instruments is the best option right now."

Karina Legaspi
Senior manager, trust department
Union Bank

"WITH the current volatile economic environment brought about by an unstable political scenario, it is best to put one's hard earned money in virtually risk-free instruments such as government securities and bank products that give definite rates of return in a specified time length.

"It is also preferable to invest in short-term investments to avoid significant losses that might happen in an erratic business climate like what we have right now.

"Union Bank, for one, offers a common trust fund which requires only about P35,000 in minimum investment. Through the fund, the money pooled by the bank from investors are invested in secured investment instru-

BANKS/ B12

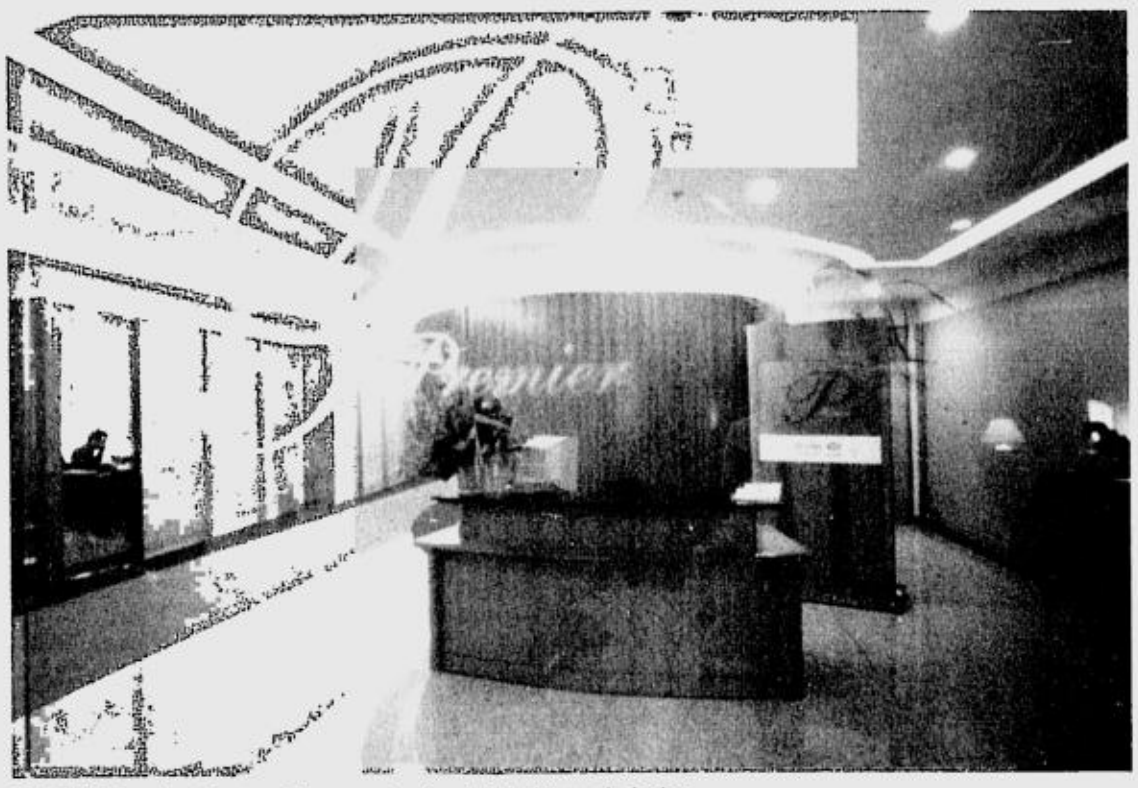
Special perks, VIP treatment for prime clients

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BEING a developing country, the Philippines has a very small pool of people who have at least P2 million that can be saved in banks. Banks, thus, go out of their way to woo these people to park their money with them.

The INQUIRER talked to three foreign banks that offer special programs that cater specifically to special clients and that give much more yields to their clients than their regular offerings.

Under these so-called wealth management programs, banks offer these privileged few special perks and treatments to influence them not only to keep their money in these banks but also to further increase their substantial deposits.



HSBC'S Premier Center follows a standard global branch design.

HSBC Premier

Among the foreign banks with wealth management programs in the Philippines, HSBC has the smallest minimum deposit requirement of P2 million, but it certainly does not offer the least benefits to its HSBC Premier clients.

James Benoit, HSBC senior vice president for marketing, said in an interview that an HSBC Premier membership entitles the client to exclusive treatment that includes not only financial management, but also special activities that give them more than their money's worth.

They do their business in specially designed HSBC Premier Centers where they are given access to the Internet, served freshly brewed coffee and personally served by the bank's relationship manager in private meeting offices.

Benoit adds that the privileges go beyond Philippine shores because a Filipino HSBC Premier client gets the same treatment and access to some 250 HSBC Premier centers in over 30 countries. The client only needs to show his card and he immediately gets attention from the people in the 9,500 HSBC offices in 80 countries and territories.

"This service makes the world smaller and friendlier for our clients," Benoit said. The primary service given to an HSBC Premier client is personal service. Each client is assigned his or her own relationship manager who listens to his financial requirements and then draws up a financial plan depending on the client's appetite for risk.

"The relationship manager goes through a needs-based analysis with the client so that he will know exactly what the client needs. We offer a range of products such as mutual funds and insurance," Benoit explained.

Aside from investment services, HSBC also offers special packages for Premier clients such as exclusive shows. The most recent of these exclusive shows was the concert of pianist Cecile Licad. There also were Ikebana classes, wine tasting sessions and even make-up tips from top cosmetics brands.

One of the more popular parts of the package is the rewards program where HSBC Premier clients are given especially chosen gift items for every referral or increase in their deposits that should stay with the bank for at least six months.

Products under the rewards program include Swarovski Crystals, Pioneer DVD Player, an overnight stay at The Farm in San Benito, Batangas, a wine gift set and even an Omega Constellation steel watch for men and women.

"We try to provide a combination of services that would make us hard to beat. We provide individual and relevant services for our clients," he said.

HSBC currently has nine HSBC Premier centers in the Philippines, which is more than any of its competitors.

"This shows that we are committed for a long-term relationship with our clients," Benoit stressed.

StanChart's Priority Banking

Given all the amenities—from brewed coffee, the Internet, private meeting rooms and even specially designed bathrooms—Standard Chartered Priority Banking clients can only expect the best possible environment when they do their banking transactions.

But StanChart's wealth management program is more than just providing elegant surroundings, it is more about providing clients with the best in financial management services, explained Abigail M. Del Rosario, Stanchart vice president for wealth management.

"Besides the regular deposit, we have investment options that are provided by our investment people who are even required to get certified by London before they can give investment advice. They undergo a lot of training to make sure that they give good financial advice," Del Rosario said in an interview.

StanChart first launched its Priority Banking service in the early 1990s but its limited office space prevented the bank from growing its client base, thus, it re-launched the service last year when it moved to its own buildings.

StanChart has 60 Priority Banking centers worldwide of which four are in the Philippines, the Quezon City branch will have its own center soon.

"Our Priority Banking clients here have access to the other centers worldwide and all centers except for a few have the same look and feel right down to the placement of white flowers and the peacock designs." Del Rosario said.

Aside from financial services, Del Rosario said that being a Priority Banking client for a minimum deposit of P2.5 million or $50,000 also means living a different kind of lifestyle that goes beyond typical banking services.

Stanchart, for instance, has tied up with different outlets that its clients were frequenting to provide them with special discounts and perks. These include spas and fitness centers, optical shops, salons, designer boutiques and cosmetics and beauty product companies.

The bank also launched its referral and deposit increase program that give clients rewards such as Rustan's gift certificates and Hermes watches.

"We get the best customers from referrals because that means that our clients are happy. We provide more than just a product to our Priority Banking clients," she explained.

StanChart also comes up with activities within its branches such as Ikebana learning sessions and free makeovers in the Alabang branch. It also does joint events with merchants such as Hermes.

"We also provide regular economic briefings for our clients," she said.

Citigold Wealth Management

Among the three banks, Citibank requires the highest minimum deposit at P4 million or $80,000, but then its clients also get more than the usual.

Patrick D. Cheng, Citibank vice president and retail banking director, said in an interview that Filipino Citigold wealth management clients get to enjoy the same type of investment service as the rest of Asia.

Citibank also employs a team approach to helping its clients plan their finances, where experts are called in depending on the requirement of the clients.

"Our clients are assigned their relationship managers who are like dedicated family doctors, but if you have special needs, we have investment experts who really know what is going on in the market," Cheng explained.

Cheng added that CitiGold wealth management clients are regularly provided with research materials to help them in their investment decisions. The Citibank group spends about $1 billion in research and clients have access to this wealth of information.

"What also sets us apart is our wealth tracker where we give our clients a breakdown of their investments, either short-term or long-term," Cheng said.

At CitiGold, the wealth management process begins by asking not just how much you have, but also how you want to have, and by when. The team will then take it from there.

Another exclusive service is the CitiGold Wealth Planner, a proprietary software exclusive to CitiGold customers. Based on a detailed assessment process, it will help the client create a personalized financial plane, taking into consideration such factors as risk tolerance and investment objectives.

CitiGold, however, is not just about financial management. It is also about perks and special privileges.

Citibank, for instance, is giving away special gifts such as a whole day package for two at The Farm at San Benito in Lipa, Batangas for an opening balance of $100,000 to $299,999.

For an opening balance of between $300,000 and $499,999, a Citigold wealth management client will get either a Nokia 6100 mobile phone or a Technomarine watch.

"Our clients also get special previews of products of top companies who know that our clients are their target clients too," Cheng said.

Banks pushing for short-term, risk-free options

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ments such as government securities and long-term papers. We do not invest in unstable channels like the stock market.

"Union Bank's common trust fund is the best option I can recommend for those who want to earn within a short span of time but do not have huge amounts of money to lock in.

LUMAIN

"Investments in the fund has a minimum maturity of 30 days, after which one may already get his or her money back together with interest, which is based on prevailing market rates.

"Still for the short term, investing in a simple time deposit is also preferable because, again, it is risk-free. Investing in something more secure is the best thing investors can do right now. Investing in the equities market is not advisable as of the moment as more and more people adopt a wait-and-see attitude."

Ma. Regina Lumain
Assistant vice president for treasury
Robinsons Savings Bank

"RETURN on investment is a function of many factors but the basic two are risk and term.

"Simply put, the higher the risk, the higher the return and the longer the term, the higher the return.

"So, for someone with P500,000 who would want to maximize his return but would prefer to be on the safe side, I recommend that he invest for 30 to 90 days in either our special savings account or government securities specifically T-bills.

"These two earn well above the regular savings rate and are virtually risk-free.

"For those who can afford to lock in their investment for longer terms and therefore earn even a better rate, I recommend Fixed Treasury Notes (two years up) or Retail Treasury Bonds (three years up)."

Ligaya Hernandez
Executive officer, investment and trading department
Land Bank of the Philippines

"FOR people who are considering investing through bank channels, they can place their money in Land Bank's common trust fund called the GS (government securities) Fund, which requires a minimum placement of P50,000. It is recommended for clients who want to make sure their money is secured.

HERNANDEZ

"The GS Fund is a wise option for conservative clients because its investment outlets include risk-free government securities, such as treasury bills and fixed term treasury notes.

"The GS Fund earns an annual gross return of 8 percent, which is higher than the prevailing T-bill rate and time deposit account rate. It has a minimum holding period of 30 days, but clients are allowed to terminate their accounts earlier, although a minimal termination fee will be imposed.

"Investing in short-and medium-term instruments is preferable than long-term instruments because returns on the latter are not much higher."

"Most clients are becoming more conservative due to the current economic environment. That is why Land Bank makes sure investments entrusted to us are placed in very secure investment channels.

For people who have smaller amount to spare, it is advisable for them to place it in the Unlad Fund of Land Bank. The Unlad Fund, which is a common trust fund, requires only a minimum investment of P25,000. It is really designed for small investors and walk-in clients. It has a gross yield of 6.25 percent and a minimum holding period of 30 days.

"Placing one's money in a common trust fund is the better option these days because it gives clients more control of their money, with its 30-day holding period. With the short holding time required, clients who may be immediately needing their money may withdraw anytime after 30 days."

Elizabeth Aquino
Trust department head
Eastwest Bank

"THERE are a lot of political news nowadays that make people cautious. There is the rumor of another coup attempt, the coming 2004 elections, the exposés of Sen. Panfilo Lacson- all these give the perception of a volatile market.

AQUINO

"With all these, interest rates are currently low, and therefore the best investment option right now is government securities and the better thing to do is to go for short-term rather than long-term investments. Because of relatively low interest rates long-term investments do not give a significantly higher yield than shorter terms.

"For people with money to invest, I recommend Eastwest Bank's Personal Trust Account which requires a minimum of P100,000 worth of investments.

"With this, clients are able to maximize their investment yield since this account is directional. This means clients can instruct the fund manager to invest the money in his choice of money market instruments, either government securities like treasury bills and treasury notes, promissory notes or commercial papers.

"Eastwest also recommends to clients what is available in the market in accordance to his risk appetite. If a client wants safety, we recommend government securities. If he or she wants to maximize the yield, then we would recommend his or her money to be invested in papers of prime corporate borrowers.

This investment instrument has a ballpark return figure of 6 percent to 7 percent, but the yield still depends on the liquidity requirement of the client. The investment can stretch for 30 days to a year."

Political jitters testing banking industry's resilience

From page B11

negative 68.78 percent.

The deterioration of UCPB's finances alarmed regulators given the systemic risks that its closure could spell not only to its thrift and rural banks but to 20 other lenders that included big ones like PNB, the still recovering Equitable PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Philippine Bank of Communications.

Tier-2 bonds

For third-largest Equitable PCI and seventh-largest RCBC, the key to stronger banking is to beef up capital through the sale of tier-2 bonds, a form of long-term borrowing whose proceeds are used to shore up capital.

The two banks concluded their tier-2 capital-raising exercises in the second quarter. Equitable PCI sold $200 million worth of 10-year notes in May and RCBC issued P5 billion worth of long-term notes in July.

The move restored the banks' capital adequacy ratio to a little over the 10-percent floor set by the central bank.

Equitable PCI grew its asset base by 5.2 percent in the second quarter to P276.63 billion and increased its capital by 2.4 percent to P42.095 billion.

A victim of the jueteng gate scandal, Equitable PCI had brought back its deposits to pre-crisis levels. As of the second quarter, deposits grew 9.9 percent to P172.25 billion from the previous year's P156.78 billion and up 0.3 percent from P171.76 billion in January to March.

The bank has also managed to reduce its bad loans to 14.97 percent of total loans in the second quarter from 17 percent in the first three months. Its NPLs are down to P24.62 billion from P25.17 billion the previous quarter.

RCBC's capital rose 12.5 percent in the second quarter to P16.83 billion against the previous year and up 0.9 percent from the first three months. Assets, however, slid 5.9 percent to P146.77 billion from P156 billion in January to March.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., the country's largest, has yet to dispose of $125 million worth of tier-2 notes whose sale had been approved by the central bank.

Industry sources said Security Bank, the 13th biggest lender, is also planning to tap the long-term debt market to raise capital.

Unlike the others, Metrobank had been raising long-term funds to finance its investments, mostly purchases of dollar-denominated bonds issued by the government.

The bank's placement in bonds and other instruments grew 20 percent from last year but slid 0.9 percent in the second quarter to P81.47 billion against the previous three-month period.

Bank of the Philippine Islands holds the biggest amount of bonds at P104.13 billion, up 8 percent from a year ago and by 9 percent from the previous quarter's P95.56 billion.

BPI is taking advantage of its network to grow its retail business after having received only last month the BSP's nod to sell life and auto insurance policies of its affiliates.

Other banks are expected to ride the wave of cross-selling in the bid to develop other markets while the main business of lending remained generally lackluster despite some growth in recent months.

Big foreign banks operating in the country continued to perform well as each try to outdo the other in offering new products and services to high-end clients but at the same time going deeper into retail lending mostly through the credit card business.

While still the biggest offshore force to contend with, Citibank's assets and deposits have declined sharply in the second quarter. Assets during the period stood at P225.01 billion, down 15 percent from P265.8 billion a year ago. Citibank shed 13.2 percent of its deposits to P126.58 billion from P145.8 billion in the second quarter of 2002 and down 10.3 percent from P141.05 billion in the first three months.

On the other hand, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank grew their deposit base by 3.8 percent against the previous quarter for the former and a consistent 20-percent growth for the latter on a year-on-year and quarter-to-quarter comparison.

Standard Chartered recently said it was considering expanding its presence in the country.

During the quarter, the local unit of Banco Santander Central Hispano S.A sold its equity to Banco de Oro. It also sold to the Henry Sy group Santander Investment Securities Philippines Inc.

Now the ninth largest, Banco de Oro said it would operate Banco Santander separately to have a niche in the high net worth clients normally flocking to foreign banks.

The central bank gave Banco de Oro six months to use the name of Banco Santander. The Sy-controlled bank said it will pay a total of P2.56 billion for Banco Santander based on the latter's adjusted net book value and acquire its securities firm for P8.4 million.

Total Assets of Commercial Banks
(1st & 2nd quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Ranking Q2 '03	Ranking Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	Q2 '03	Q1 '03	% Change	Q2 '02	% Change
1	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	441,231,146,600	439,001,119,268	0.5%	379,302,964,520	16.3%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	338,329,040,303	338,511,191,194	-0.1%	331,455,964,163	2.1%
3	3	Equitable PCI Bank	276,626,842,076	262,843,959,898	5.2%	258,347,709,216	7.1%
4	4	Land Bank of the Philippines	271,554,800,846	246,849,282,230	10.0%	238,714,930,339	13.8%
5	5	Citibank	225,009,875,013	222,524,463,864	1.1%	265,797,750,717	-15.3%
6	6	Philippine National Bank	194,650,530,319	192,730,150,975	1.0%	189,609,185,816	2.7%
7	8	Development Bank of the Philippines	153,203,032,104	149,746,826,572	2.3%	151,996,573,666	0.8%
8	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	146,778,278,560	156,058,371,424	-5.9%	149,096,219,504	-1.6%
9	9	Banco de Oro	126,872,696,816	127,376,084,533	-0.4%	85,231,620,574	48.9%
10	10	Allied Banking Corporation	105,728,436,990	109,487,920,449	-3.4%	98,293,396,792	7.6%
11	11	China Banking Corp.	103,417,996,891	104,576,050,332	-1.1%	90,637,783,425	14.1%
12	13	HSBC	71,790,212,462	70,471,931,604	1.9%	80,278,598,341	-10.6%
13	15	Security Bank Corp.	68,526,353,548	62,439,734,592	9.7%	62,822,944,198	9.1%
14	14	Union Bank of the Philippines	68,459,676,086	69,619,138,366	-1.9%	63,307,906,852	8.1%
15	16	Philippine Bank of Communications	51,391,767,470	47,662,094,253	7.8%	42,001,278,851	22.4%
16	17	Prudential Bank	48,482,748,363	47,546,474,264	2.0%	48,138,022,812	0.7%
17	18	Bank of Commerce	44,526,222,781	40,587,694,500	9.7%	24,287,606,919	83.3%
18	19	International Exchange Bank	39,417,017,301	38,506,710,836	2.4%	37,058,173,557	6.4%
19	20	Standard Chartered Bank	39,083,816,616	35,245,902,664	10.9%	35,658,649,410	9.6%
20	21	Philippine Trust Co.	35,469,618,181	33,685,137,373	5.3%	32,789,990,010	8.2%
21	22	Export and Industry Bank	26,535,016,892	25,261,253,952	5.0%	25,854,728,295	2.6%
22	26	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	24,255,616,124	17,080,594,509	42.0%	22,946,687,852	5.7%
23	24	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	22,152,322,218	21,807,406,183	1.6%	21,866,144,658	1.3%
24	23	International Commercial Bank of China	22,018,866,706	23,368,105,241	-5.8%	20,977,913,433	5.0%
25	25	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	17,726,826,773	17,908,180,467	-1.0%	16,157,029,924	9.7%
26	28	East West Bank	16,245,932,699	14,914,335,536	8.9%	13,620,915,494	19.3%
27	30	ING Barings	16,149,036,671	13,663,283,846	18.2%	17,278,646,047	-6.5%
28	27	Asia United Bank	15,670,260,344	14,987,168,819	4.6%	12,273,880,205	27.7%
29	29	United Overseas Bank[g]	15,636,022,094	14,666,107,579	6.6%		
30	31	Philippine Veterans Bank	13,532,160,163	13,129,925,902	3.1%	13,067,818,860	3.6%
31	32	Maybank Phils. Inc.	11,866,632,917	12,193,953,551	-2.7%	9,884,476,709	20.1%
32	33	Mizuho Corporate Bank	11,163,459,796	11,949,533,589	-6.6%	12,600,464,644	-11.4%
33	34	JP Morgan Chase Bank	10,065,393,979	10,315,932,420	-2.4%	10,880,036,060	-7.5%
34	38	Korea Exchange Bank[e]	9,596,026,699	6,713,297,344	42.9%	5,468,279,786	75.5%
35	36	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	8,157,939,064	9,861,709,044	-17.3%	10,604,841,629	-23.1%
36	35	ABN-AMRO Bank	8,027,809,464	10,162,127,512	-21.0%	13,644,861,864	-41.2%
37	37	Bank of America[b]	6,442,907,429	6,728,492,210	-4.2%	8,811,420,014	-26.9%
38	39	Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]	5,523,359,791	5,569,060,576	-0.8%	7,520,838,929	-26.6%
39	40	Bangkok Bank	4,110,760,536	3,233,047,527	27.1%	3,341,135,456	23.0%
40	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	92,631,627	100,991,959	-8.3%	99,798,616	-7.2%
	12	United Coconut Planters Bank[f]		95,946,153,101		96,356,279,298	
		Global Bank[d]	50,657,771,283				
		GRAND TOTAL Php	3,115,519,093,312	3,145,250,900,059	-0.9%	3,058,741,242,740	1.9%

Non- Performing Loans of Commercial Banks
(1st & 2nd quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Q2 '03	Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	NPL amount Q2 '03	NPL amount Q1 '03	Total loans Q2 '03	Total loans Q1 '03
1	1	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	86.00%	86.00%	7,271,106	7,426,106	8,262,620	8,635,007
2	2	United Overseas Bank[g]	59.23%	63.96%	5,048,134,712	5,149,656,902	8,522,935,526	8,051,371,016
3	3	Philippine National Bank	49.00%	53.00%	48,546,451,807	46,850,260,359	99,074,391,443	92,170,302,564
4	4	Bangkok Bank	30.20%	43.44%	655,194,263	660,096,224	2,169,517,427	1,519,558,526
5	9	Bank of Commerce	29.67%	21.95%	6,254,293,042	4,418,428,955	21,079,516,172	20,133,185,796
6	8	Prudential Bank	29.59%	26.74%	5,586,800,265	5,097,892,793	18,880,703,836	19,064,670,131
7	7	Philippine Bank of Communications	23.60%	26.98%	6,142,226,463	6,038,246,083	26,026,383,319	22,380,452,493
8	11	Export and Industry Bank	19.72%	19.86%	2,744,144,787	2,641,151,411	13,915,541,516	13,298,848,998
9	12	Maybank Phils. Inc.	19.37%	17.31%	1,637,400,407	1,535,290,964	8,453,280,368	8,869,387,428
10	20	East West Bank	17.16%	12.69%	1,776,831,732	1,263,701,199	10,354,497,272	9,958,244,276
11	10	Land Bank of the Philippines	16.45%	20.45%	24,336,202,855	26,598,489,727	147,940,442,888	130,065,964,435
12	6	Philippine Veterans Bank	15.46%	28.78%	1,022,590,151	1,817,105,530	6,614,425,297	6,313,778,768
13	16	Allied Banking Corporation	15.28%	14.62%	8,730,797,000	8,084,611,000	57,138,723,822	55,298,296,854
14	14	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	15.25%	15.05%	15,096,679,000	15,096,122,000	98,994,616,393	100,306,458,472
15	17	China Banking Corp.	15.19%	14.21%	8,804,815,804	7,973,579,199	57,964,554,338	56,112,450,380
16	15	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	15.02%	14.98%	31,110,919,888	31,132,639,649	207,129,959,308	207,828,035,040
17	13	Equitable PCI Bank	14.97%	17.00%	24,615,582,578	25,172,077,820	164,432,749,352	148,071,046,000
18	21	International Exchange Bank	13.03%	11.66%	2,678,973,498	2,501,284,573	20,560,042,195	21,451,840,249
19	18	Union Bank of the Philippines	11.15%	13.05%	3,786,138,186	3,368,986,903	33,956,396,287	25,815,991,594
20	24	Development Bank of the Philippines	10.31%	10.30%	9,732,497,804	8,870,709,690	94,398,620,795	86,123,395,049
21	19	Security Bank Corp.	9.73%	12.78%	4,614,076,623	5,058,146,886	47,421,136,927	39,578,614,131
22	25	Bank of the Philippine Islands	9.69%	10.06%	15,041,091,551	15,455,394,460	155,222,823,024	153,642,092,048
23	23	Philippine Trust Co.	9.65%	10.53%	1,505,966,296	1,499,211,461	15,605,868,357	14,237,525,745
24	28	Asia United Bank	9.55%	7.16%	1,115,427,934	784,157,853	11,679,873,650	10,951,925,316
25	26	International Commercial Bank of China	9.20%	9.74%	981,857,353	1,131,246,412	10,672,362,533	11,614,439,548
26	27	Standard Chartered Bank	8.66%	8.09%	2,270,914,487	1,956,661,286	26,223,031,028	24,186,171,644
27	22	JP Morgan Chase Bank	7.73%	11.25%	198,528,029	198,528,029	2,568,279,806	1,764,693,591
28	29	Banco de Oro	7.35%	6.71%	5,088,328,167	4,548,326,406	69,228,954,653	67,784,298,152
29	31	Mizuho Corporate Bank	6.35%	6.10%	433,742,922	479,737,635	6,830,597,197	7,864,551,393
30	32	HSBC	5.91%	5.31%	1,279,185,807	1,263,694,157	21,644,429,898	23,798,383,371
31	33	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	4.09%	5.01%	149,123,381	149,123,381	3,646,048,435	2,976,514,591
32	30	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	3.90%	6.47%	453,692,672	698,638,800	11,633,145,441	10,798,126,732
33	34	ING Barings	2.28%	2.74%	289,897,042	291,627,827	12,714,782,544	10,643,351,332
34	35	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	1.85%	1.88%	214,091,909	217,895,406	11,572,535,622	11,590,181,170
35	36	Citibank	1.15%	1.23%	1,436,308,865	1,477,265,616	124,896,423,071	120,102,895,581
36	37	ABN-AMRO Bank	0.57%	0.39%	28,015,197	28,015,197	4,914,946,842	7,183,383,846
37	38	Korea Exchange Bank[e]	0.00%	0.00%	1,550	1,619	1,502,919,496	1,619,020,000
38	40	Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]	-	0.00%	-	-	2,422,814,392	2,983,497,133
39	39	Bank of America[b]	0.00%	0.00%	8	9,627	1,281,348,664	913,206,327
40	40	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	7,624,210,234	7,635,738,971
41	5	United Coconut Planters Bank[f]		40.79%	-	20,747,380,569	-	50,863,889,602
		GRAND TOTAL Php			243,414,195,141	262,263,819,710	1,638,390,895,843	1,615,574,413,300

Real & Other Properties Owned or Acquired by Commercial Banks
(1st & 2md quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Ranking Q2 '03	Ranking Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	Q2 '03	Q1 '03	% Change	Q2 '03	% Change
1	1	Philippine National Bank	26,754,201,658	27,099,357,397	-1.3%	24,906,496,768	7.4%
2	2	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	26,120,599,084	25,874,663,195	1.0%	24,515,188,190	6.5%
3	5	Equitable PCI Bank	14,103,527,959	13,201,561,263	6.8%	10,483,839,700	34.5%
4	4	Land Bank of the Philippines	13,871,400,698	13,941,280,718	-0.5%	12,535,532,014	10.7%
5	6	Bank of the Philippine Islands	10,220,042,278	10,066,119,211	1.5%	9,215,848,598	10.9%
6	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	6,634,445,005	6,994,944,735	-5.2%	6,694,385,349	-0.9%
7	8	Philippine Bank of Communications	6,417,063,546	6,529,423,507	-1.7%	5,322,872,885	20.6%
8	9	Union Bank of the Philippines	6,072,982,016	6,095,979,928	-0.4%	5,685,849,853	6.8%
9	11	Allied Bank	5,382,972,484	5,295,007,374	1.7%	5,301,684,379	1.5%
10	10	Banco de Oro	5,321,274,372	5,340,110,826	-0.4%	5,334,785,127	-0.3%
11	12	China Banking Corp.	4,397,825,906	4,262,958,915	3.2%	4,305,338,306	2.1%
12	13	Prudential Bank	4,347,071,355	4,186,310,352	3.8%	3,609,042,686	20.4%
13	14	Export and Industry Bank	4,038,151,518	4,110,356,261	-1.8%	1,942,761,802	107.9%
14	16	Development Bank of the Philippines	3,805,776,882	3,665,922,150	3.8%	3,034,020,947	25.4%
15	15	Security Bank	3,731,476,953	3,848,188,290	-3.0%	3,535,714,567	5.5%
16	18	Bank of Commerce	2,998,284,385	2,908,287,448	3.1%	1,664,894,212	80.1%
17	17	International Exchange Bank	2,932,769,508	2,949,161,467	-0.6%	2,372,476,078	23.6%
18	19	Philippine Trust Co.	2,512,674,624	2,522,874,912	-0.4%	414,369,491	506.4%
19	20	Philippine Veterans Bank	1,865,301,392	1,779,340,449	4.8%	1,727,252,745	8.0%
20	21	East West Bank	559,070,924	568,606,026	-1.7%	551,731,877	1.3%
21	22	Maybank Phils. Inc.	410,871,806	414,033,296	-0.8%	280,566,800	46.4%
22	23	Citibank	397,800,942	400,406,043	-0.7%	373,119,471	6.6%
23	24	United Overseas Bank[g]	302,474,209	296,459,456	2.0%		
24	25	HSBC	164,225,576	151,105,219	8.7%	77,189,881	112.8%
25	26	Standard Chartered Bank	124,308,872	115,154,004	8.0%	102,677,906	21.1%
26	27	JP Morgan Chase Bank	85,000,000	85,000,000	0.0%	85,000,000	0.0%
27	28	International Commercial Bank of China	43,022,184	49,052,183	-12.3%	55,928,933	-23.1%
28	29	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	39,519,229	39,790,226	-0.7%	40,078,443	-1.4%
29	30	ABN-Amro Bank	25,850,668	25,850,668	0.0%	41,992,305	-38.4%
30	31	Banco Santander[a]	17,176,250	17,176,250	0.0%	25,126,400	-31.6%
31	32	Asia United Bank	10,155,219	10,155,219	0.0%	7,155,219	41.9%
32	33	Bangkok Bank	5,097,600	5,097,600	0.0%	35,877	14108.5%
		Bank of America	-	-	228,622	-100.0%	
		ING Barings	-	-	1,590,844	-100.0%	
	3	United Coconut Planters Bank[f]		21,753,540,867		21,290,523,060	
		Global Bank[d]				3,158,395,626	
		GRAND TOTALPhp	153,712,415,103	174,603,275,475	-12.0%	158,693,694,962	-3.1%

Total Deposit Accounts of Commercial Banks
(1st & 2nd quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Ranking Q2 '03	Ranking Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	Q2 '03	Q1 '03	% Change	Q2 '02	% Change
1	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	342,730,611,790	333,886,689,908	2.6%	291,307,817,240	17.7%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	268,501,923,529	270,894,497,337	-0.9%	263,911,763,470	1.7%
3	3	Land Bank of the Philippines	200,576,878,053	181,905,508,497	10.3%	175,239,983,366	14.5%
4	4	Equitable PCI Bank	172,255,733,494	171,764,762,701	0.3%	156,781,932,183	9.9%
5	5	Philippine National Bank	143,478,076,233	142,718,886,583	0.5%	133,069,892,401	7.8%
6	6	Citibank	126,582,648,822	141,050,551,560	-10.3%	145,800,026,478	-13.2%
7	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	104,780,582,515	107,675,198,985	-2.7%	101,315,591,776	3.4%
8	8	Banco de Oro	93,382,050,401	92,835,445,307	0.6%	62,096,503,641	50.4%
9	9	Allied Banking Corporation	80,500,320,489	84,259,337,204	-4.5%	80,331,819,713	0.2%
10	11	China Banking Corp.	72,807,365,718	76,358,438,418	-4.7%	67,025,068,562	8.6%
11	12	HSBC	55,053,043,653	53,035,482,099	3.8%	60,168,284,097	-8.5%
12	13	Union Bank of the Philippines	46,319,454,243	44,146,991,977	4.9%	41,420,008,903	11.8%
13	14	Security Bank Corp.	42,629,987,480	39,474,076,356	8.5%	38,232,401,087	12.0%
14	17	Philippine Bank of Communications	36,027,448,594	32,967,557,272	9.3%	31,573,016,096	13.7%
15	16	Prudential Bank	35,503,545,982	35,195,325,588	0.9%	36,490,740,324	-2.7%
16	15	Development Bank of the Philippines	34,619,514,219	36,695,259,490	-5.7%	37,368,663,479	-7.4%
17	19	Bank of Commerce	32,618,839,558	29,950,335,484	8.9%	18,188,558,463	79.3%
18	18	International Exchange Bank	31,767,646,721	31,142,196,745	2.0%	29,713,822,770	6.9%
19	20	Philippine Trust Co.	30,309,483,622	28,547,204,710	6.2%	28,151,000,852	7.7%
20	21	Standard Chartered Bank	26,330,769,097	21,968,445,051	19.9%	22,011,762,570	19.6%
21	22	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	15,393,977,054	15,445,157,883	-0.3%	10,879,486,312	41.5%
22	25	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	13,316,519,124	9,873,918,101	34.9%	17,776,867,534	-25.1%
23	24	East West Bank	12,241,435,540	11,046,845,625	10.8%	9,619,287,533	27.3%
24	23	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	11,441,006,668	12,148,333,565	-5.8%	11,006,381,948	3.9%
25	26	United Overseas Bank[g]	9,075,721,721	8,439,782,740	7.5%		
26	27	Philippine Veterans Bank	8,701,553,475	8,246,814,288	5.5%	8,034,319,957	8.3%
27	28	Asia United Bank	7,999,197,659	7,431,009,570	7.6%	6,084,641,086	31.5%
28	30	Export and Industry Bank	7,267,152,169	6,279,061,904	15.7%	5,514,606,483	31.8%
29	35	ING Barings	6,512,146,660	3,077,493,444	111.6%	5,716,950,115	13.9%
30	31	Maybank Phils. Inc.	6,365,454,103	6,037,956,264	5.4%	5,828,604,842	9.2%
31	29	JP Morgan Chase Bank	5,424,040,915	6,708,069,563	-19.1%	7,196,649,164	-24.6%
32	32	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	4,091,769,459	5,371,865,411	-23.8%	6,229,449,978	-34.3%
33	34	Mizuho Corporate Bank	3,659,208,338	3,749,001,016	-2.4%	2,740,035,324	33.5%
34	33	ABN-AMRO Bank	3,062,483,091	3,964,451,879	-22.8%	3,077,333,660	-0.5%
35	37	Bank of America[b]	2,840,000,918	2,295,728,437	23.7%	3,924,231,741	-27.6%
36	36	Korea Exchange Bank[e]	2,694,762,143	2,635,476,706	2.2%	3,289,837,932	-18.1%
37	38	International Commercial Bank of China	1,862,877,730	2,146,585,613	-13.2%	2,102,031,985	-11.4%
38	39	Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]	1,847,406,926	1,915,548,956	-3.6%	4,247,322,673	-56.5%
39	40	Bangkok Bank	797,727,065	618,222,098	29.0%	446,553,374	78.6%
40	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	356,266,830	360,013,230	-1.0%	325,080,177	9.6%
	10	United Coconut Planters Bank[f]		81,213,760,816		81,433,327,696	
		Global Bank[d]				30,900,315,605	
		GRAND TOTAL Php	2,101,926,631,799	2,155,477,288,381	-2.5%	2,046,692,074,591	2.7%

Return on Equity
(1st & 2nd quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Ranking Q2 '03	Ranking Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	Q2 '03	Q1 '03	Q2 '02
1	37	Bank of America[b]	66.83%	-13.51%	-18.17%
2	-	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	30.98%	-	18.24%
3	4	Citibank	25.46%	20.92%	28.22%
4	1	ABN-AMRO Bank	24.10%	24.72%	-43.54%
5	3	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	20.33%	22.04%	20.83%
6	6	China Banking Corp.	19.54%	18.34%	17.51%
7	2	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	19.24%	23.18%	20.27%
8	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	14.95%	9.32%	4.79%
9	5	HSBC	13.68%	19.33%	30.27%
10	8	Union Bank of the Philippines	13.55%	11.32%	13.32%
11	10	Bank of the Philippine Islands	11.36%	10.43%	13.00%
12	9	Asia United Bank	11.18%	10.61%	20.63%
13	20	Land Bank of the Philippines	11.02%	8.26%	11.67%
14	11	Development Bank of the Philippines	10.20%	9.91%	10.57%
15	21	Security Bank Corp.	9.74%	6.45%	5.84%
16	12	International Exchange Bank	9.57%	9.58%	17.42%
17	29	East West Bank	8.30%	2.14%	6.98%
18	19	Banco de Oro	7.89%	8.34%	4.75%
19	16	Korea Exchange Bank[e]	7.30%	8.57%	2.80%
20	18	Allied Banking Corporation	6.31%	8.50%	2.81%
21	23	Philippine Trust Co.	6.19%	5.25%	7.13%
22	25	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	6.16%	3.68%	6.30%
23	37	International Commercial Bank of China	5.68%	-35.04%	-54.42%
24	28	Philippine Veterans Bank	5.46%	3.20%	4.48%
25	22	Philippine Bank of Communications	5.23%	6.33%	2.20%
26	24	Prudential Bank	4.75%	4.96%	2.23%
27	31	Standard Chartered Bank	3.70%	1.90%	7.75%
28	13	Export and Industry Bank	3.39%	9.40%	1.63%
29	30	Equitable PCI Bank	2.88%	1.91%	1.19%
30	14	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	2.41%	9.33%	7.03%
31	7	ING Barings	2.38%	13.31%	8.08%
32	26	Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]	2.01%	3.45%	5.27%
33	27	Bank of Commerce	1.66%	3.45%	7.84%
34	33	Philippine National Bank	1.00%	1.00%	-27.00%
35	32	Mizuho Corporate Bank	0.50%	1.84%	5.40%
36	35	Maybank Phils. Inc.	-12.30%	-9.48%	-2.71%
37	38	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	-15.23%	-17.69%	-22.88%
38	34	Bangkok Bank	-17.60%	-2.13%	0.60%
39	17	JP Morgan Chase Bank	-24.30%	8.55%	58.41%
40	39	United Overseas Bank[g]	-63.36%	-69.15%	
	40	United Coconut Planters Bank[f]		-77.87%	-64.69%
		Global Bank[d]			0.36%

Total Capital Accounts of Commercial Banks
(1st & 2nd quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Ranking Q2 '03	Ranking Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	Q2 '03	Q1 '03	% Change	Q2 '02	% Change
1	1	Bank of the Philippine Islands	51,342,151,904	51,595,076,469	-0.5%	50,436,018,376	1.8%
2	2	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	51,174,036,750	50,770,792,378	0.8%	49,345,095,619	3.7%
3	3	Equitable PCI Bank	42,095,565,310	41,120,198,337	2.4%	40,476,088,835	4.0%
4	4	Philippine National Bank	23,775,603,172	23,265,603,832	2.2%	14,324,394,465	66.0%
5	5	Land Bank of the Philippines	22,137,722,476	20,954,024,611	5.6%	20,794,474,560	6.5%
6	6	Development Bank of the Philippines	19,121,288,105	18,557,288,475	3.0%	18,402,975,010	3.9%
7	8	China Banking Corp.	16,973,639,328	15,944,540,185	6.5%	14,322,910,060	18.5%
8	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	16,826,683,739	16,679,401,536	0.9%	14,954,213,559	12.5%
9	11	Union Bank of the Philippines	14,849,455,458	13,577,315,497	9.4%	13,217,525,455	12.3%
10	9	Banco de Oro	14,397,196,665	14,116,148,755	2.0%	13,175,098,556	9.3%
11	10	Allied Banking Corporation	14,293,504,579	13,759,572,540	3.9%	12,393,529,530	15.3%
12	12	Security Bank Corp.	10,204,990,189	9,904,806,369	3.0%	9,314,795,156	9.6%
13	13	Prudential Bank	9,057,574,270	8,959,062,038	1.1%	8,210,006,591	10.3%
14	14	Philippine Bank of Communications	6,731,421,026	6,500,757,960	3.5%	6,401,621,804	5.2%
15	15	Citibank	4,662,790,344	4,661,710,856	0.0%	4,658,461,551	0.1%
16	16	Export and Industry Bank	4,382,309,362	4,242,414,736	3.3%	4,202,097,607	4.3%
17	17	Philippine Trust Co.	4,128,760,514	4,055,579,936	1.8%	3,814,213,930	8.2%
18	18	International Exchange Bank	4,103,211,359	3,960,598,612	3.6%	3,768,345,592	8.9%
19	20	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	3,728,545,209	3,528,486,872	5.7%	3,297,306,876	13.1%
20	21	Bank of Commerce	3,686,895,166	3,507,292,754	5.1%	3,553,699,623	3.7%
21	19	Philippine Veterans Bank	3,614,818,632	3,566,050,425	1.4%	3,771,374,237	-4.2%
22	22	Asia United Bank	3,430,610,123	3,254,876,563	5.4%	3,011,040,628	13.9%
23	23	ABN-AMRO Bank	2,984,388,683	3,047,164,342	-2.1%	2,355,843,453	26.7%
24	24	East West Bank	2,893,519,606	2,857,141,537	1.3%	2,784,608,002	3.9%
25	25	Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]	2,625,726,326	2,676,826,389	-1.9%	2,615,100,074	0.4%
26	26	Maybank Phils. Inc.	2,419,071,169	2,502,092,913	-3.3%	2,349,569,460	3.0%
27	32	United Overseas Bank[g]	2,072,444,951	683,749,395	203.1%		
28	28	HSBC	1,343,973,497	1,328,550,990	1.2%	1,350,000,000	-0.4%
29	30	ING Barings	1,329,110,336	1,232,760,404	7.8%	1,241,556,383	7.1%
30	29	Standard Chartered Bank	1,256,834,500	1,256,834,500	0.0%	1,243,200,000	1.1%
31	31	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	720,433,671	720,433,671	0.0%	720,433,671	0.0%
32	33	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	625,000,000	625,000,000	0.0%	625,000,000	0.0%
33	34	Mizuho Corporate Bank	601,912,599	601,912,598	0.0%	601,912,599	0.0%
34	35	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	528,714,128	506,096,011	4.5%	529,064,913	-0.1%
35	36	Bank of America[b]	422,500,000	408,234,067	3.5%	422,500,000	0.0%
36	37	International Commercial Bank of China	405,434,000	405,434,000	0.0%	405,434,000	0.0%
37	38	Bangkok Bank	265,831,677	265,831,677	0.0%	265,831,677	0.0%
38	39	Korea Exchange Bank[e]	257,000,000	257,000,000	0.0%	257,000,000	0.0%
39	40	JP Morgan Chase Bank	256,445,157	168,481,853	52.2%	240,517,236	6.6%
40	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	(311,565,620)	(284,612,060)	-9.5%	(252,651,467)	23.3%
	27	United Coconut Planters Bank[f]		1,853,082,118		4,269,793,625	
		Global Bank[d]				7,466,932,105	
		GRAND TOTAL Php	365,415,568,361	357,592,614,139	2.2%	345,336,933,350	5.8%

Loans, Discounts & Advances of Commercial Banks
(1st & 2nd quarters 2003 & 2nd quarter 2002)

Ranking Q2 '03	Ranking Q1 '03	Commercial Banks	Q2 '03	Q1 '03	% Change	Q2 '02	% Change
1	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	186,793,765,380	191,386,843,423	-2.40%	154,614,312,478	20.80%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	147,763,650,114	146,497,822,633	0.90%	139,645,801,893	5.80%
3	4	Land Bank of the Philippines	121,842,658,201	106,279,346,142	14.60%	92,398,248,326	31.90%
4	3	Equitable PCI Bank	109,505,624,296	109,535,937,129	0.00%	104,025,149,960	5.30%
5	5	Citibank	80,029,905,828	82,855,069,135	-3.40%	82,803,819,190	-3.30%
6	7	Development Bank of the Philippines	65,521,241,897	66,497,552,695	-1.50%	68,135,114,754

RP to raise sugar tariff to 80%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES has informed the World Trade Organization of its plan to increase its bound tariff rate for imported sugar from 65 percent to 80 percent to further protect the local sugar industry until it is deemed prepared to compete in a fully liberalized trading environment.

"Our officials in Geneva personally hand carried the notification to the WTO last June 25, or ahead of the June 30 deadline," said Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who flew to Cancun, Mexico to represent the country in the 5th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

The move came after the government issued Executive Order No. 230, which kept applied tariffs on sugar from within the Asean Free Trade Area to 48 percent, veering away from the tariff reduction schedule under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff scheme.

Bound tariff rates refer to the maximum tariff rate that a country can impose against imported products while applied tariffs are the actual taxes imposed on the imported products.

The Philippines asked Asean to place its locally-produced sugar on the list of sensitive products so that sugar would be temporarily exempt from the CEPT tariff reduction schedule.

The request was intended to give the sugar industry enough space to develop without the threat of cheap imports, such those from Thailand.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Although only 16, this Pinay looker is already an accomplished, internationally recognized performer

Meet Lalaine, Lizzie McGuire's spunky sidekick!

By Maria Lalaine B. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

ENTERING show business is no mean feat. It requires lots of blood, sweat and tears. But if you do hit the big time, you're one lucky individual—especially if we're talking Hollywood stardom!

So if one of our *kababayans* does make it, we feel mighty proud. Such is the case with Lalaine Vergara-Paras, who stars as Miranda Sanchez in the hugely popular Disney TV series "Lizzie McGuire."

Lalaine, the youngest of four children was born on June 3, 1987 to Filipino parents who hail from Batangas and Pampanga. Although

MEET/ C2

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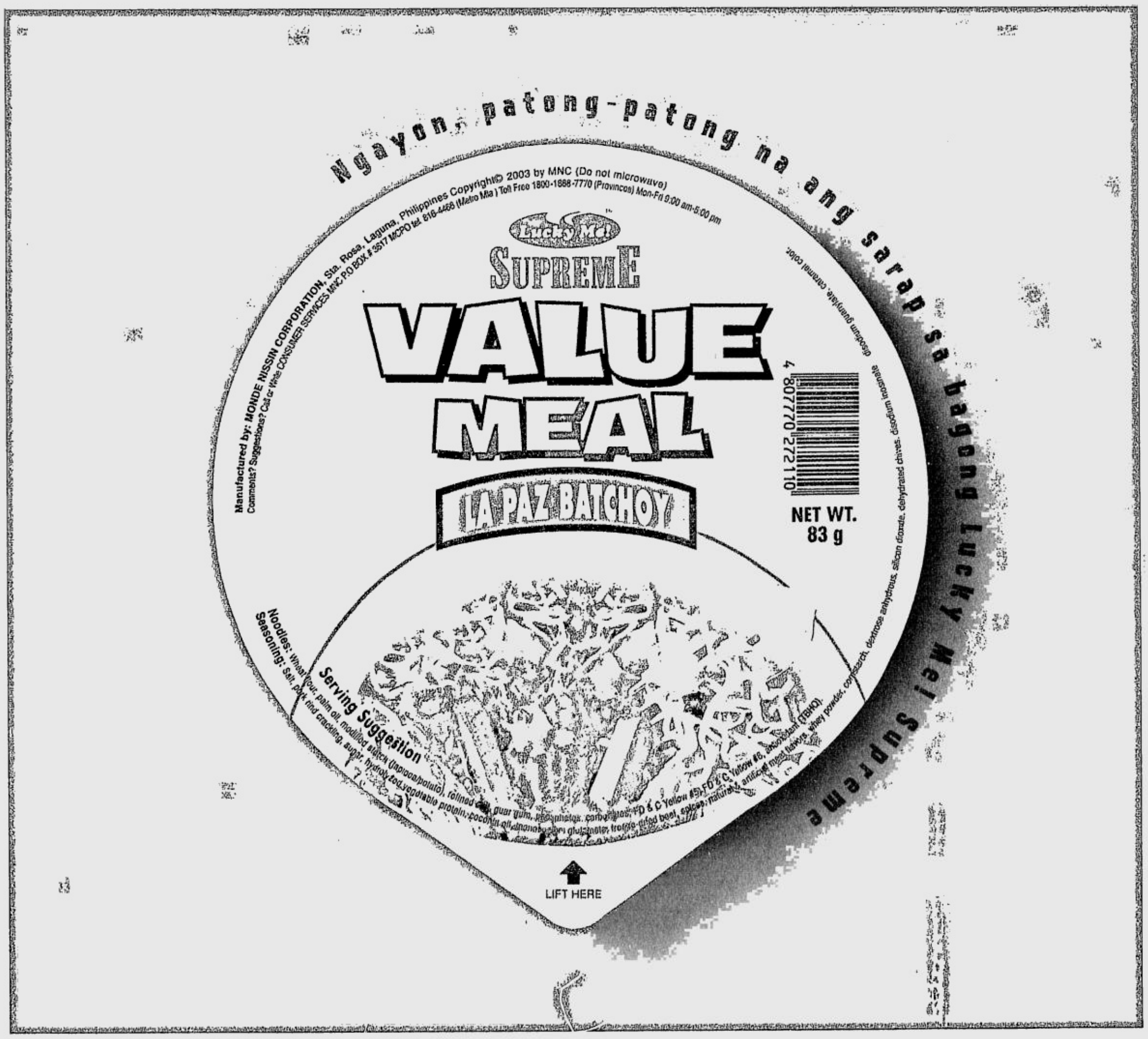


WHEN hearthrobs meet. Olive Ong and Louie Kaw

STYLE setters. Cherina Chilip-Sy and Kristine Lato

YOU can bank on them. Michelle Esteban and Dwight Cham

TANDEM at 12. Ipe Cruz and Susiean Go

SUN-SHINE of my life. Lance and Jay Gokongwei, spotted at Restaurant 12, seem like newlyweds.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

FUNK-PHILE Gel LaO' at Resto 12

CENTURY'S hot property Ricardo Po

A week of meteoric concert stars

Tim Yap

THE JUNIOR Taipan set was all over Restaurant 12's second-floor lounge over the weekend. Nope, the cast of "Meteor Garden" hadn't arrived yet—partyphiles came to celebrate the civil-rite union of twentysomething lovebirds **Tahnee Yap** and **Andre Sy**.

Tahnee, one of the top billers in Preview magazine's best-dressed list, was my classmate in Grade 2. We don't recall being extraordinarily fussy about our fashion back then, so we both wonder what had happened along the way.

Anyway, things have a way of ending up for the better, so here she was, standing in front of me, wearing a mod chinoise dress with a funky zipper that went around all over from Shanghai Tang. We both came from the wedding of another high school couple—**Jonas** and **Candice Ang** (see, our last names all do not exceed three characters! That saves space. Plus we can write our names faster during quizzes). Andre is behind the family's Valiant and Mackenzie, distributors of Nivea, Cadbury, Del Monte, et al.

You know you're getting older when you're attending more weddings. Then again, I love getting all romantic and mushy. (What's next? Baptisms, anniversaries, more anniversaries and then the obituary? Hmmm, watch me do an obit column when I turn 70). *(So we can start enjoying your obit-writing skills next year?-Ed.)*

Back at the party, the mood was celebratory as the young couple entertained their pals. I spotted at the bar **Lance** and **Jay Gokongwei** (the longest Chinese last name I know of) being really sweet to each other, like newlyweds. ("They're even sweeter than Tahnee and Andre," joked **Olive Ong**, one of Tahnee's closest girlfriends.) Andre was being the good host, hopping around his guests as they all looked forward to the wedding, which will happen in Bangkok this November.

My best wishes to the couple!

JUST married! Andre Sy and Tahnee Yap wearing Shanghai Tang

This week's highs

There are two things that I'm really happy about lately. Just little joys, nothing grand.

One is that Royal (Tru Orange, yes) has a Royal Light already. I had always loved Royal and would always wonder why they never produced a low-calorie version. (I chug soda like a drunkard his beer.) Now maybe after the success of Zesto's Diet Dalandan soda, Royal thought of coming up with its own version of diet orange soda. So here's to diet softdrinks! Let's party!

Second is the launch of Listerine Cool Strips—you know, those transparent square minty strips that just melt in your mouth and are so handy in those moments when you just need your breath to smell fresh. (And oh, Pfizer made it.) Well, the event happens this Friday at the fountain area of Greenbelt 3.

The after-party (I suspect it's by Pfizer also) happens at Resto 12, where BBC will hold court that night, with Aussie DJ **Bluessabelle** (what a name) on main deck.

DJ who? Well, Bluessabelle (I love saying her name) plays at Sunbar and Chinese Laundry in Australia. She plays an eclectic set of music—new lounge, bossa, batucada (don't ask me what that is) Afro-Latin, and drum n' bass—an eclectic set for the eclectic cast of characters for that night, for sure. Best of all—"It's open bar on anything—drinks are on us!" says BBC proponent **Kara Tolentino**. And that means all of us.

Another sure treat is this weekend's slew of musical extravaganzas. Take your pick of the best and the brightest local and international music stars. For a change, skip the bars and clubs and head over to performance venues to listen to artists dish out their stuff. After their concerts, you can always go back and chug the night away.

Super fever!

Vanness Wu and **Ken Zhu** with **Barbie** and her sister are teaming up with **Gary V** for "The Event" which happens at the Ultra Football Stadium, Saturday the 13th.

Michael Buble arrives in Manila tonight and goes around town for some concerts with Joey 92.3 and his home record company Warner. His PICC concert is on the 18th. This Saturday, he has a by-invitation-only gala performance at the Meralco Theater. I won't miss this one—his CD is on 24-hour play mode with me and I super-belt out his version of "Kissing A Fool" (track 3) everytime I hear it—which is every other five minutes.

Lea Salonga comes home for her PICC concert with **Ariel Rivera** and **Ogie Alcasid**. **Martin Nievera** goes "Onstage Again" at Greenbelt, **Jim Brickman** visits Alabang Town Center and **Robert Seña** does Music Museum.

Sunday is the start of "Seven Days with Super!"—our daily countdown of gigs to celebrate a Super! life. It begins with an afternoon movie picnic at the Greenbelt Cinema 1 and 2, where INQUIRER's super readers and celebrities get to watch "Legally Blonde 2" and "2 Fast 2 Furious" for free! Just clip the logo of Super! (every Saturday, here at your favorite paper) for a free pass to the movies.

With a full load of fun and fab treats, Manila is just getting pumped up for more Super! happenings.

SASSY in the city. Just back from Harvard, hot architect Denise de Castro and Quint Fansler with young groom Andre Sy

JOY luck club meets mod squad. Olive Ong, Tahnee Yap, Gel LaO' and Kristine Lato

Meet Lalaine, Lizzie McGuire's spunky sidekick!

From page C1

only 16, this 5'5" looker is already an internationally recognized singer/songwriter, dancer and film and television actress.

At age 10, she debuted on Broadway in the Cameron Mackintosh Production of "Les Miserables," playing Little Cosette/Eponine. Then she landed commercials for Microsoft and Burger King.

Lalaine's vocal skills have also been utilized for films such as "Mrs. Santa Claus," "Inspector Gadget," "Lolita" and "Babe." And she has guest-starred on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

Lalaine was recently named one of Teen People's 20 Teens Changing the World, as a result of her passion for helping children. She has participated in many charitable events such as the Aids Benefit Concert, Ronald McDonald Charity, N' Sync Challenge for youth, Children United International and numerous other children's charities.

Although she grew up in the States, Lalaine is very much a Filipina inside. She feels incomplete if she does not go to church on Sunday, loves her chicken/pork *adobo* with plain steamed rice, and adores Lea Salonga and the movie "Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal."

She gamely sang for this writer when requested via video conference to warble a few lines of Lea's hit song. Pert and bubbly, she tore into the song with great aplomb, despite her thick American accent.

Although she's not included in the "Lizzie" movie and she's mum on the subject, Lalaine is not the type to brood about missed opportunities. A self-confessed free spirit, she's focused on honing her craft as a performer.

Read more to find out about this rising superstar!

What is your fave "Lizzie" episode?

When Matt (Lizzie's younger bro) had a crush on me. The crew teased me and him forever. And when Gordo got a girlfriend, I got to play a boy. We followed Gordo to the restaurant and we run into this waiter and it's a big disaster. All this spaghetti sauce gets all over us. Hilary and I were, "Ahhh!" It was mushy with olives, but it was fun.

Are you best pals with Hilary Duff and Adam Lamberg?

We get along and work great together. I'd known Hilary even before the show started. We'd meet each other at auditions and stuff. Sometimes we hung out after but we always hung out at auditions. So we became kind of close. It made our scenes together much easier.

IT'S COOL to be a role model, she says.

How is it being a role model to lots of kids?

When "Lizzie McGuirre" first became popular, all these kids would recognize me as Lizzie's best friend Miranda Sanchez, and I began seeing myself as a role model. Being a role model comes with a lot of responsibilities. I don't give in to peer pressure. I stay away from drugs and alcohol, and I'm careful about the way I dress because a lot of kids like my style on the show. It makes me feel good. It's cool to be a role model.

You are very active in doing charity work. How did you get started in that?

When I was nine, during my "Les Miserables" tour, my teacher got us started on making books of poetry and selling them to fans to donate to children's hospitals. I loved it when kids really appreciated not only what we did, but also the fact that we were happy to bring such products of love to them.

Now that "Lizzie" has ended (the series ended in the States last June 2002 to give way to the "Lizzie Mcguire" movie), what's keeping you busy?

I am busy promoting my debut CD, "Inside Story" which features the singles "All Fall Down," "Shake What You Got" and "You Wish," which was the title song of the original Disney Channel film, "You Wish." I play the title role here. Check it out on the Disney Channel. I'm also active doing live performances and participating in Filipino conferences here in L.A.

Being an actress in Hollywood, was it easy or hard to land roles because of your Asian looks?

I can say it is not easy, but it is a handicap I was born into. Some people just don't like you. It's a tough job. I used to cry over rejections. But I just worked harder to be a better and stronger person. I am proud to be a Filipino, like Rob Schneider. I'm so proud of him. He's opening doors. I love Lea Salonga, too. I look up to her, she has helped me.

What are your other talents aside from acting?

I write and produce some of my songs. I do enjoy it. I play the guitar, piano and drums for fun. I am learning to be good at playing other instruments. I love dancing, singing, songwriting and any competitive sports. I love basketball and football. I can be tough.

You lived in the Philippines from 1990 to 1995. Any particular memory you still remember?

I was four the last time I was there. I can still remember Manila as being a busy city, lots of things going on at the same time. It was noisy. I liked it. My Dad moved a lot, we lived in Manila and Batangas and Cebu. Oh, and eating white rabbit candy, including the wrapper that melts in your mouth!

You basically grew up in the States. How Filipino are you now?

We go to Church every Sunday. I am very close to my family. At home, we have a big "Santo Niño" that you can see as soon as you enter our house. It was given by a good friend from the Philippines.

Any plans of coming back to the Philippines?

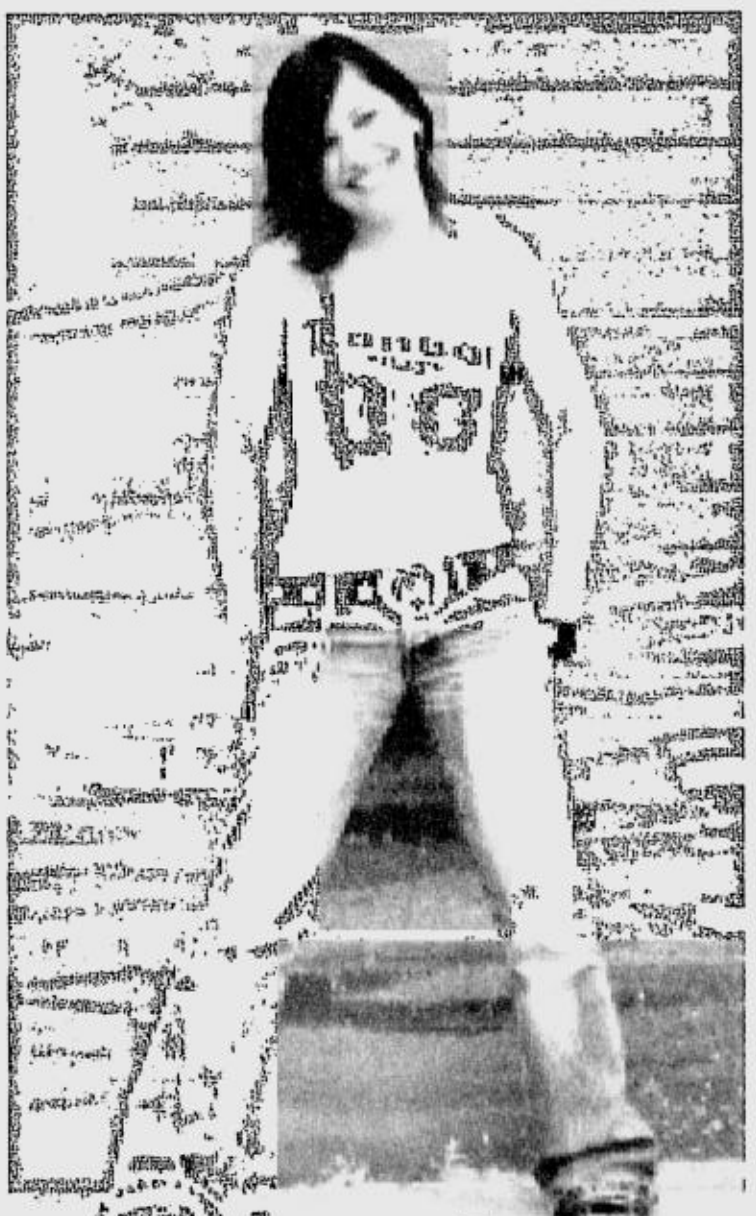
I love to perform there. Having this interview with you is great. It is awesome that you found me. Please help spread the news about me so I can have a big enough fan base in the Philippines for responsible groups to request my performance.

What's the most exciting thing that has happened to you lately?

I just got my student driver's license (flashes her card). I am so excited! I am still learning to drive a stick shift car. The last time, I drove it all the way and my teacher told me I did great.

What are your plans for college? How do you see yourself five years from now?

I do plan to go to college, to the medical field because my Mom's a nurse. Or continue with my singing or acting career. I do not know for now... but I will be where all these takes me, and I know I will be happy and grateful.



LALAINE was recently named one of Teen People's 20 Teens Changing the World.

Is it okay to fall in love with a phone pal?

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mahino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

I got a boyfriend through the Internet. He is a foreigner; he's a nice guy. He calls me then texts me. (But) my best friend has a close friend in school who said she gave my cell phone number to a nautical student who was her friend, too. So I (got to know) the guy through the phone and he's been sending me text messages ever since. He became my boyfriend, too, and I'm sure that what I feel for him is true even though it's just through the phone (that we met).

My feelings for my boyfriend in the Net are just *balewala sa akin*. Although we chat online, plastic *lang ako* with him, 'cause I know I'm in love with this guy on the phone.

But am I, really? I don't know if I'm right. My friends tell me to know him first (the phone guy). I will because we're meeting each other soon. Is it okay to fall in love with this guy?

KATE

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I assume you've already seen a picture of this guy and you have picked up your jaw from the floor and wiped the drool from your chin.

If you haven't, then your little romance is endangered. If you are planning to pursue a real relationship with Mr. Nautical, his looks, among others, would have to matter. But if all you want is a tele-relationship, then you don't even have to cross paths.

I don't believe you when you say you're in love with the guy at the other end of the phone. Maybe you simply want to fall in love with him when you meet. Give your friends cell cards for being nice, wise and concerned, and make sure you follow their applause-worthy advice.

A voice (just like looks) can be very deceiving. Just look at some (ok, most) DJs locked up in their booths.

My point: Meet Mr. Voice ASAP. Only then can you confirm if you truly "love him." But even if you feel like changing your number once the voice gets a face, don't drop him like a piece of hot French fry. Don't cut off all lines of communication. Remember how much fun you had with your handset. You might even end up together despite the disappointment of your first face-to-face meeting.

MARK

Kate, you don't need our thumbs-up to fall in love with the guy. You are free to build illusions, to fantasize and to sincerely believe that this dude is it.

The only advice we can give you is to listen to what your friends are saying because they know you best and they make perfect sense.

Based on what you've told us, it's not unusual for you to fall in love at the drop of a hat, and to fall out of love just as quickly. Think of that poor boyfriend you're cheating on, although I can't really sympathize with him. He has to be naive to believe that the Net is a good way to find true and sincere love.

But going back to you, your history with anonymous guys should make you think. There's nothing wrong with what you want to happen. But you could get hurt if you make things happen fast, although you seem to be the type of girl who can recover pretty quickly.

The bottom line is, follow what you want, but do it carefully.

SEPTEMBER

E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com

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Activities:

Magic Shows by Pengo
Sept. 13, 3 p.m., RDS Metropolis
14, 3 p.m., RDS Ermita
20, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East
21, 3 p.m., RDS Galleria

Mascot Visits by Nestle
Sept. 6, 3 p.m., RDS Galleria
7, 3 p.m., RDS Ermita
13, 3 p.m., RDS Imus
14, 3 p.m., RDS RP Sta. Rosa
Sept. 20, 3 p.m., RDS Dasmariñas
21, 3 p.m., RDS Metropolis
27, 3 p.m., RDS Novaliches
28, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East

Mascot Visits by Moose Gear
Sept. 6, 3 p.m., RDS Nepo Mall
6, 5 p.m., RDS Pampanga
13, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East
13, 5 p.m., RDS Galleria

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LIFESTYLE

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the day,

as world

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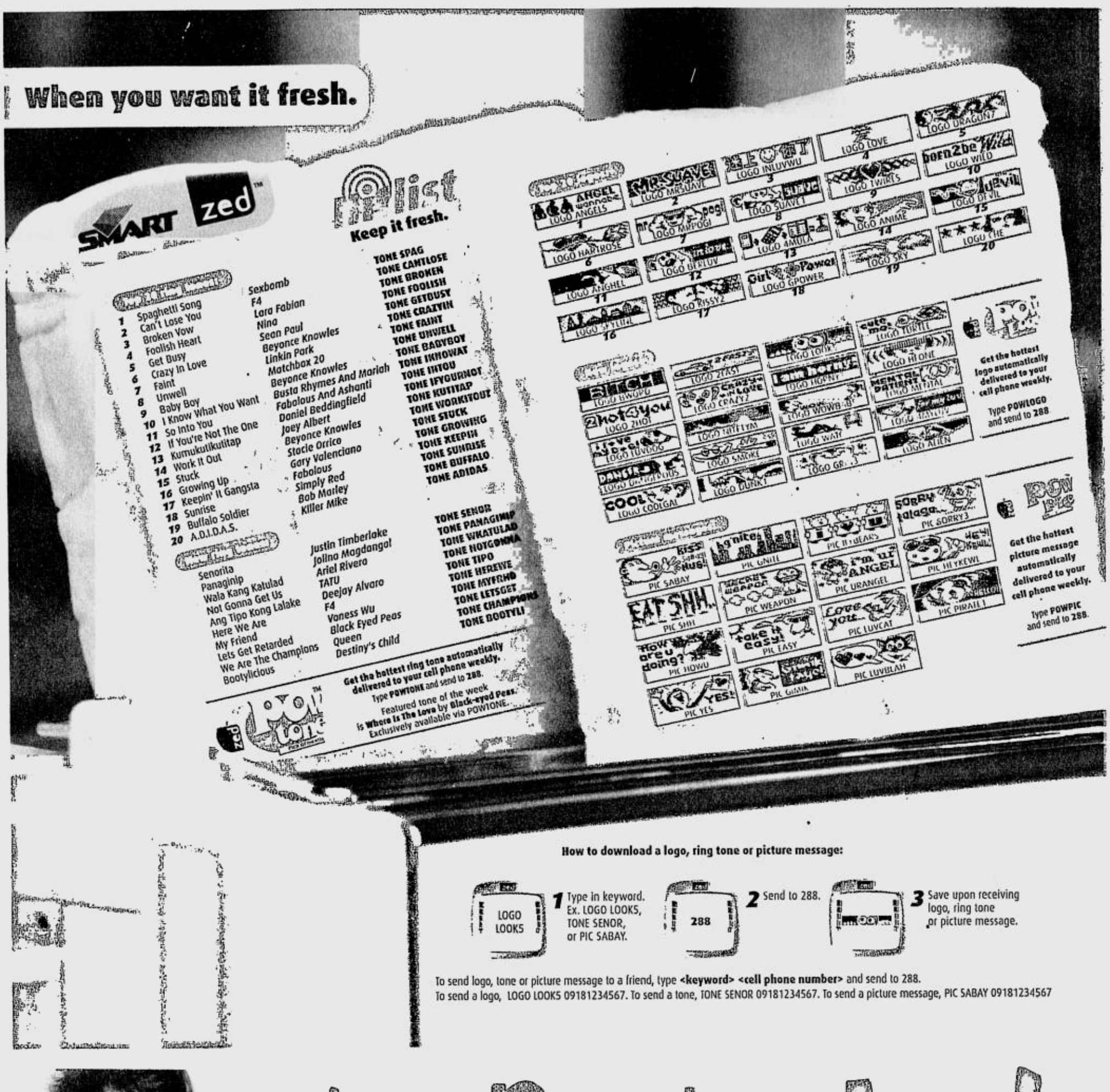
goes

higher

and higher

in terms

of hemline



THE FADER magazine suggests short outfits, like Anna Sui's jacket and hot pants, for a more pulled-together look.

Up, up and away!

By Bea Ledesma
Contributor

DESIGNERS have thrown down the gauntlet to fashionistas everywhere, peppering their collection with miniskirts and scandalous hot pants in collections that are far from beach-friendly.

Of course, fashion designers will always try to shock cynical patrons by showing brief-like shorts or incredibly short miniskirts along with their regular women's wear designs.

Yet almost every international designer, from Narciso Rodriguez to Michael Kors, seem to be going higher and higher in terms of hemline, raising pant length to a surprising mid (or three quarters of) derriere, and minis aren't very far either in the length ladder.

Miuccia Prada seems to be taking it more seriously, adding luxe accessories that bring chic to short. Even Karl Lagerfeld, at his spring collection in Europe, attempted to tone down the outrageousness of his hot pants with that fashion Faberge, the Chanel jacket, decking his models in brooches and layers of pearl necklaces.

Some retailers have taken up on it and denim providers, Levi's and Lee, as well as other local stores, Mix et al, have begun displaying these length-challenged garments.

Writer Sep Mahino declared, "Yes, I would wear [an ultra mini] but only if it's at a party and if I don't have to commute." She understands that the rigors of daily travel would not fare well on short bottom covers.

Acceptable garb

It must be said that what passes for acceptable summer garb today, the flimsy see through blouses, deep halter tops, ultra short pants, shiny stilettos and tight low jeans that reveal an ample amount of flesh, were once the clothes of hookers, displaying their wares for the interested customer.

Cathy Horne, a fashion and style journalist, held a short experiment that put the focus on this year's hottest tendances. She hired a pretty semi-petite model, who could pass for a regular girl about town, to wear Chanel shorts that measured 5 inches tall and 13 inches in width. It looked like a wide belt, stretched to cover her lower extremities. She paired it with a Chanel jacket and white top to make it more... respectable, if you may. Yet people stopped and stared as the model calmly walked by quiet shady streets, punctuated by the occasional wolf whistle. And this was in New York.

Horne's objective was to get a reaction, to prove perhaps that even in jaded New York, people still deemed certain things "inappropriate." As she discovered, "For many women, exposing four inches of bare belly is easier to accept than the last inch of leg."

And in today's liberal society, finding out that people are still shockable is quite... shocking. As Mia Cabalfin, a model and dancer, stated aptly, "There's a thin line between sexy and skanky." True enough.

Anyone willing to walk down a fashion tightrope should be able to take some unwanted attention. Perhaps it's a sense of adventure or indefatigable self-confidence that allows women to put it out there and wear what they want to wear, conventional rules be damned.

Iea Gutierrez, whose fashion sense can be categorized as fun and uninhibited, said, "Yes, I would and have worn hot pants. I'd wear it to a bar probably, or the beach."

Evolution

The evolution in fashion's definition of sexy didn't come as easily as one would imagine. Designers have pushed the boundaries, over the past decade or so, with styles that cover dance (from ballet covered catwalks to Betsey Johnson's voluminous flamenco dresses), transparency (filmy gowns and blouses), fetishism (see the "Moulin Rouge"-esque craze) and most recently, lingerie.

Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera have continually decreased garment sizes over the years, baring legs, midriffs and more in tight, skimpy outfits that make the adage, "less is more" truer than ever, especially for young women who may not necessarily have the perfect body. (Christina Aguilera's new job as Versace's latest image model despite her recent weight gain is proof enough.)

And for the most part, women have been happy to go along with it. But credit should be given where credit is due. Alexander McQueen's extravagant "bumster" trousers in the early 1990s, with waists dropped way below the navel, was the turning point for fashion's shift from breast-centered designs to butt-focal outfits.

Today, Roberto Cavalli's tight corsets and short skirts are staples of any well-dressed young woman's party outfit. What was at first a simple look for the season has now become a universal style, acknowledged by even Diane von Furstenberg and the Hilton sisters.

But Vogue is quick to caution the fashion adventurer as the mini-trend goes in full swing, "This is not a retro thing: Avoid the "Austin Powers" syndrome by pairing your mini with metallic sandals or a blouson top."

UP/ D3

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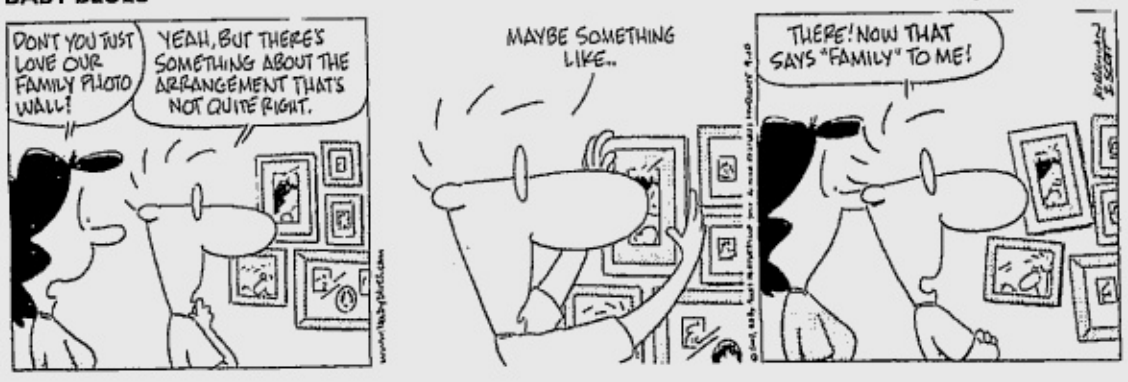

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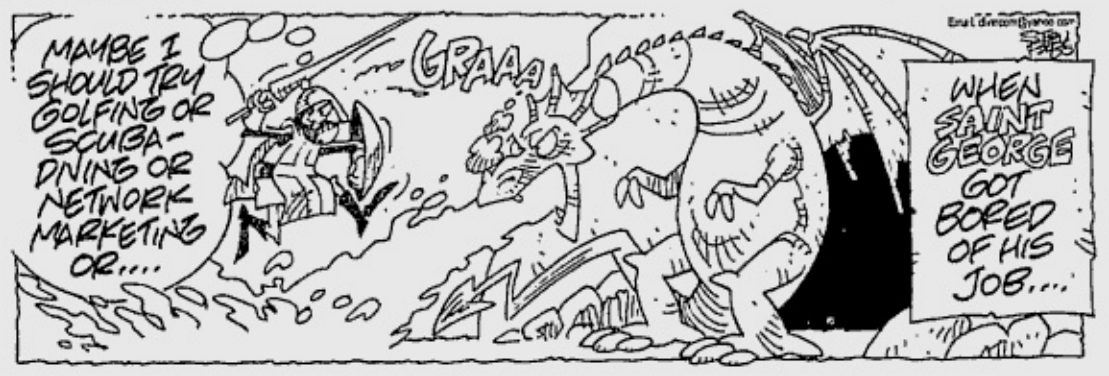
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You value tradition. You like to do things a certain way. Everyone knows you are capable and reliable. You have strong family values and strive hard to keep balance in your life, although you often seek an unusual partner. The year ahead will be more friendly, sociable and strongly focused on your closest relationships.
Birthdate of: Colin Firth, actor; Amy Irving, actress; Chris Columbus, director.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Do not be ruthless in trying to make improvements at work today. There are always two sides to a question. Do you think you really appreciate both sides?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's tough to know who to put first now—the group and the rights of the group, or your own immediate pleasure. This is always a hard call.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You don't know who to please today—your family and your personal needs, or an authority figure in your life. It's as if you are caught between career and home.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Take extra precautions when driving/traveling anywhere today. Similarly, think twice before you speak. Today's Full Moon brings confusion to communication /transportation.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Make sure that you do not spend money today in an offhand way. Today's Full Moon makes you want to ignore your fiscal responsibilities. There's always too much month left at the end of the money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with partners and close friends are a bit tense. Demonstrate grace under pressure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You don't have to roll over and play dead just because somebody else wants you to. Wait until later this week to see what your chances of success really are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's not worth arguing with a friend today. Your friendship is worth more than the debate. It's important to keep friends, because these are people you have history with.

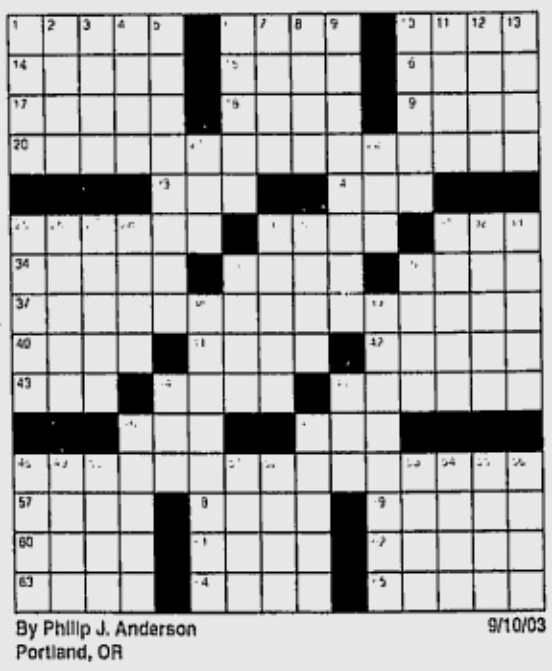
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't go up against your boss today. Just play it cool. The problems you experience now will diminish greatly by the end of the week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): What you really need to do is escape somewhere for a little while. You need a change of scenery. In addition, you're hungry to learn more about the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do not be rash if you have to determine how responsibilities and obligations are divided. Don't try to take on more than you can truly handle.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you have peace within, you will find peace without. Since Mars continues to stay in your sign, it makes you aggressive. Caution.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/10/03

ACROSS
1 Standing by
6 Part of a fishhook
10 Liquid asset
14 Jerry Stiller's Anne
15 Upolu Island city
16 Puget Sound whale
17 Presidential candidate Ralph
18 Ohio team
19 Food thickener
20 Comment from the nonplussed
23 Tad's dad
24 Me, in Paris
25 Properly positions
29 Look furtively
31 Arctic surface
34 Crevasse pinnacle
35 Ment
36 Pronto letters
37 Comment from the nonplussed
40 See socially
41 Nice summers?
42 V-formation fliers
43 Afore
44 Overwhelmed
45 Shoots wide
46 CIA predecessor
47 Mrs. Nixon
48 Comment from the nonplussed
57 Writer Anita
58 Feels poorly
59 Rib
60 California valley
61 Louver
62 Go in
63 Pub potables
64 Scrabble piece
65 Violinist Isaac

DOWN
1 Potent beginning?
2 Orderly
3 Small boys
4 Locality
5 Idiom
6 Canal boat
7 Mimic
8 Hound
9 Cellar
10 Raccoon's kin
11 Jason's craft
12 Swindle
13 Fabled dawdler
21 Wt. increments
22 Keystone karacter?
25 Stage whisper
26 "The Merry Widow" composer
27 Very angry
28 Dished out
29 Beeped
30 Greek Cupid
31 Wight and Capri
32 Bring about
33 Fencing swords
35 Din ending?
36 Sharpshooters
38 Informative television
39 Shakes up
44 Ninnyhammer
45 Disfigure
46 Caravan stopover
47 Adhesive mixture
48 Rick's "Casablanca" love
49 Hard work
50 A few
51 1970 Julie Andrews film, "Darling __"
52 Israeli airline
53 Transmitted
54 One of a pair
55 Explosive fellow
56 Actor Bruce

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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9/10/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

A sweet-shooting, net-swishing, ball-pounding family!

THE UP women's basketball team—a picture of trust, respect and faith

By Emmanuel V. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

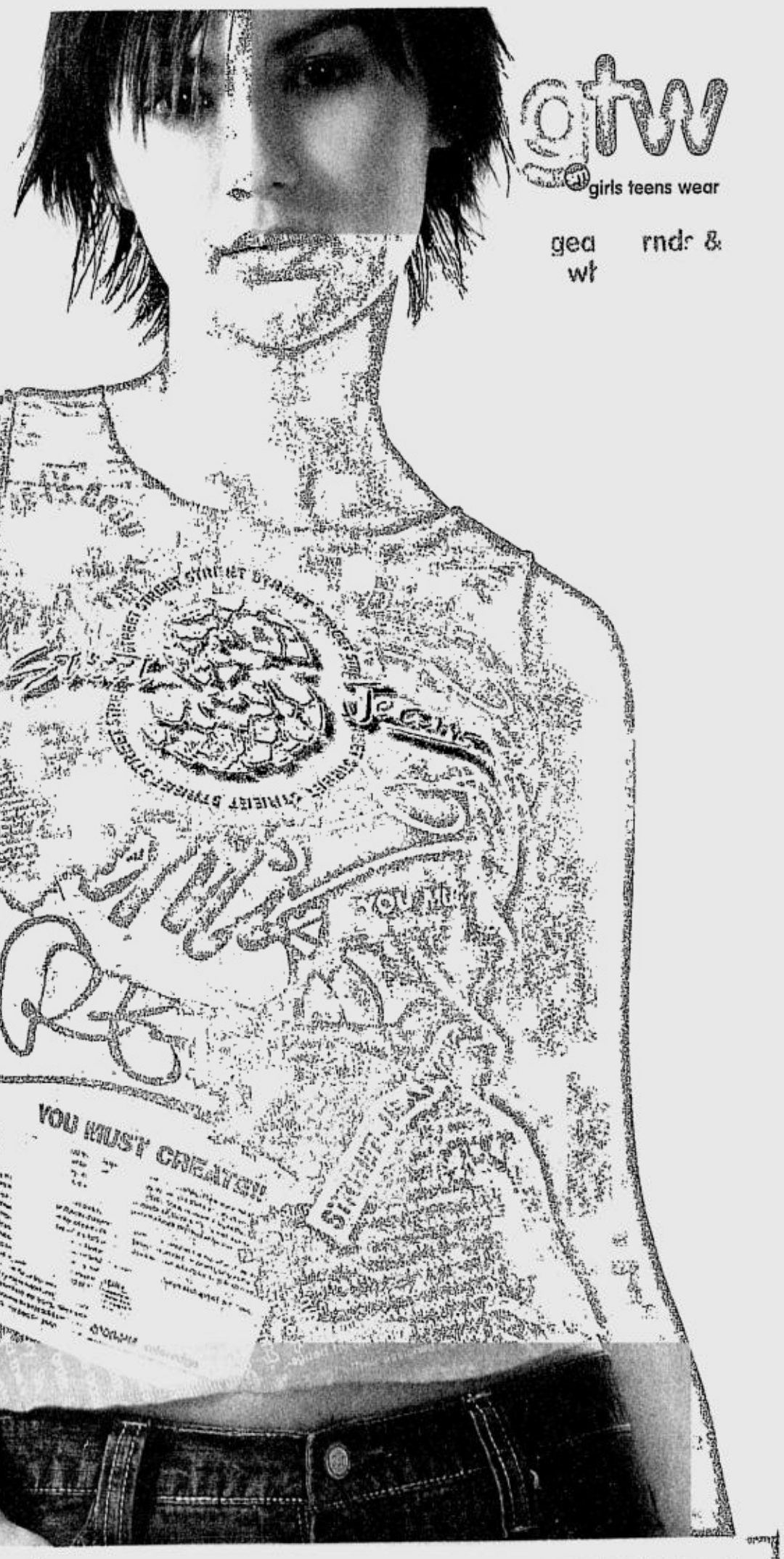
COMING up short for a championship trophy can be very frustrating, especially for a fierce and very capable competitor. For these lady basketeers, frustration is an understatement. For the last two years, the most coveted UAAP championship trophy has been eluding the UP Women's Basketball Team. A very skilled and disciplined roster, the "Lady Maroons," as they are called, landed the Final Four from 2001 until 2002, and ended at the 2nd and 4th spots respectively. With a complete package of fiery guards, long-bombers, post-up threats and role players, plus a very knowledgeable coaching staff, one would think this basketball squad should've been at the forefront of the women's collegiate basketball universe a long time ago.

The players are Camille Dowling (team captain), Marison Mendoza, Dianne Torres, Pia Aguinaldo, Jennifer Payoyo, Jaclyn Cruz, Joan Roma, Julie Gobunquin, Erika Aranjuez, Sophia San Luis, Gabrielle Marco, Clarissa Javier, Bianca Ramirez, Corrine Asistio, Micah Valenzuela and Sarah Canlas. Head Coach is Robert Duliesco, assisted by Giovanni Torres, Paul Encarnacion and Peter Dajime. One of UP Diliman's finest varsity teams, the Lady Maroons will be shooting once more for that elusive title in this year's 2003 UAAP season.

During training hours, these hoopsters know how to handle their basketball business properly. Even when the coaches' hollers of instruction shake up the gymnasium, the focus is still inspiring and the intensity they give off is electrical that it's impossible to ignore.

The team also knows that having fun is an essential aspect of the game. Sometimes, they would joke around with their teammates as well as with their coaches whenever they feel that there was a wrong call made during a scrimmage. There are also days when the team does a simple shoot-around to make the atmosphere more relaxed. Outside the court, however, these lady dribblers are a one cool *barkada*. They go out to lunch together. They also have their occasional team dinners, which they call "parents' potluck," where they play a lot of games and when the coaches inform the parents about academic and team requirements, as well as the support the team needs. The players and coaches also make *tambay* just to talk about their subjects, crushes and of course, things that involve basketball. In times of heartbreaking defeats, the team always finds a way to shrug them off—with pasta and pizza on the table.

Most importantly, this team has built the trust, respect and faith around and within them. These virtues, aside from their God-given skills and abilities, are what they'll bring with them in their journey for greater basketball glory. These virtues make them not just one of the most celebrated and feared teams in the UAAP, but also a tightly-knit basketball family.



Up, up and away!

From page D1

And for the particularly daring, Vogue has a short word of warning: Minis can be worn with heels... carefully. "Kitten heels are a better idea than stilettos," it said. God help you if you tread that fashion victim-strewn path and wear high heels with your mini.

Delighted

An acquaintance of mine, who happens to be a keen fashion observer, noted that when she wore the ultra short mini or hot pants, she received delighted reactions from the male audience, whereas the women were not so forgiving. Catty remarks and nasty giggles accompanied the looks she received from other girls.

It couldn't possibly be the result of her looks, because she's a slender attractive girl, with more than enough height to pull it off.

Perhaps it was the rejection of a new trend. People tend to react strangely when presented with something radical. Or maybe it was simply a result of envy. After all, everyone's been programmed to want the perfect body.

Yet pop culture observers note that with such widespread coverage in fashion magazines, television shows and general discussion, the public has reached a saturation point with the perfect body ideal made popular by the "Sex and the City" girls and other generic pop stars—they of the toned abs and nonexistent hips.

Even more amazing is the change in perspective of many women in terms of body size. Now, you don't have to have the perfect body to wear skimpy clothing. Women today are smarter and more self-confident, rejecting the popular notions of yesteryears and absolving themselves of the guilt of unproportioned figures.

You don't see Queen Latifah covering herself from head to toe. Oscar season saw her decked out in sexy dresses that accentuated her figure, instead of hiding it. So maybe, instead of the nasty looks my friend claims she received, they were looks of reproach by women who perceived her attire as stating conceitedly, "You have to look like me to wear this."

In the end, perhaps what's so shocking about the miniskirt or hot pants isn't its length, but the acknowledgment that you don't need to be a size 6 to wear it.

BEING BEAUTIFUL IS NOTHING
NEXT TO FEELING BEAUTIFUL

So-so sophomore effort

Chapter II
Ashanti
MCA Universal

By Maui Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

DON'T mistake this album for another one of those you can burn for your friends, to turn up full-volume in their lowered BMWs while they cruise down the city traffic to their next R&B party.

REVIEW

Selling 326,000 copies in its first week (outselling Beyonce's album that totaled 183,000 in its first week) has earned Ashanti Douglas her second top-spot debut in the Billboard charts, but it doesn't quite settle the same way with the critics. In fact, probably only die-hard Ashanti fans will be able to find the little gems hidden in this overproduced sophomore album by the reigning princess of R&B.

This 20-track record boasts upbeat tracks and mushy ballads that are quite mediocre compared to Ashanti's first offering. A little bit mellower, and a little bit more retro, tracks like "The Story of 2" take us back to the girl doo-wop era. And although that's a bit of a surprise from a Murder Inc. artist (pop in the '70s-inspired "I Found Lovin'"), it's her voice that keeps this album up on the charts.

While her first album featured duets with the likes of Ja Rule and Fat Joe, "Chapter II" showcases Ashanti's lighty, airy vocals that promises a bright future for this artist (she is, after all, only 22).

"Chapter II" updates the Chaka Khan hit "Sweet Thing" through "Breakup 2 Makeup," and of course, contains the carrier single, "Rock Wit U (Awww Baby)." "Carry On" is your usual ditty about a breakup, but is a strong display of her vocal range. And she's got the whole sex-kitten act down with "Ohhh, Ahhh."

She also handles death and passing away with "Then Ya Gone," then takes us down with the soft, slow beats of "I Don't Mind." Douglas also co-wrote 13 of the tracks, so that's a big bonus.

Ashanti does have talent. Her breathy voice slips through notes effortlessly, which is why the production of this album doesn't do justice to her.

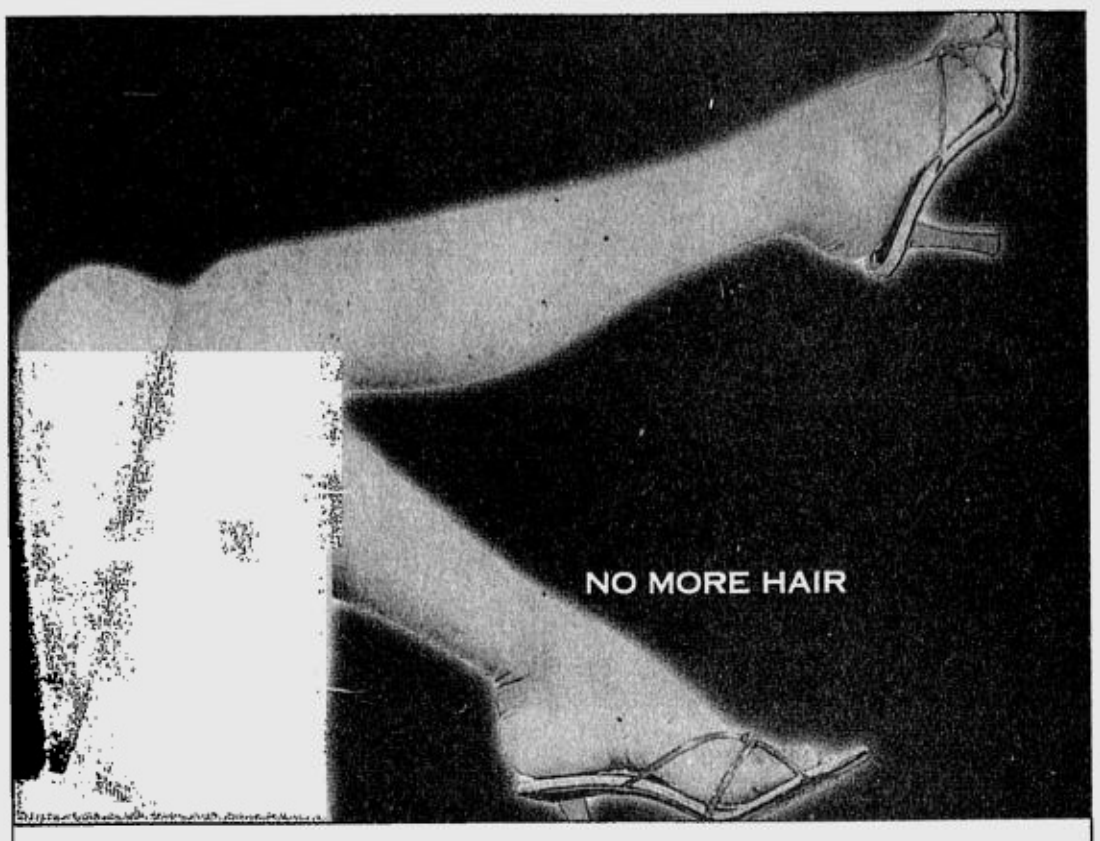
Of course, her first album could have just been a teaser—maybe this is really what Ashanti wants to do, what she wants to sound like. And although not original, the sampling of classic R&B hooks does give it that extra "kick." Just not enough to make Ashanti fans go do the Russian dance.

What annoys critics the most (aside from the fact that the album shortchanges Ashanti's talent) is the many skits that pepper the album. The intro (which features samples from Ashanti's previous singles) and outro are okay, but even the beginning of some songs contain so much sound effects and dialogue, you'll be tempted to just hit the forward button to get them over with.

All in all, "Chapter II" is a satisfactory sophomore effort from one of last year's breakthrough artists. Let's just hope her next album will be better.

Win Ashanti CDs!

SO we didn't think Ashanti's second album is all that (although we can't stop spinning the first!). But hey, that doesn't mean you should, too! We're spreading the love and giving away three "Chapter II" CDs to you readers, courtesy of those wonderful peeps down at MCA Universal. Just tell us who you'd want to "Rock Wit" and why. Send them to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph on or before 12 nn on Sept. 15, with "Ashanti" as the subject. Although we're known to stalk people, we promise to be really nice to contestants, so please don't send in pseudonyms or code names.



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815 3121	687 2197	372 6634	717 0076	809 9583	243 8602	920 7992	860 2663/64	233 7633/35

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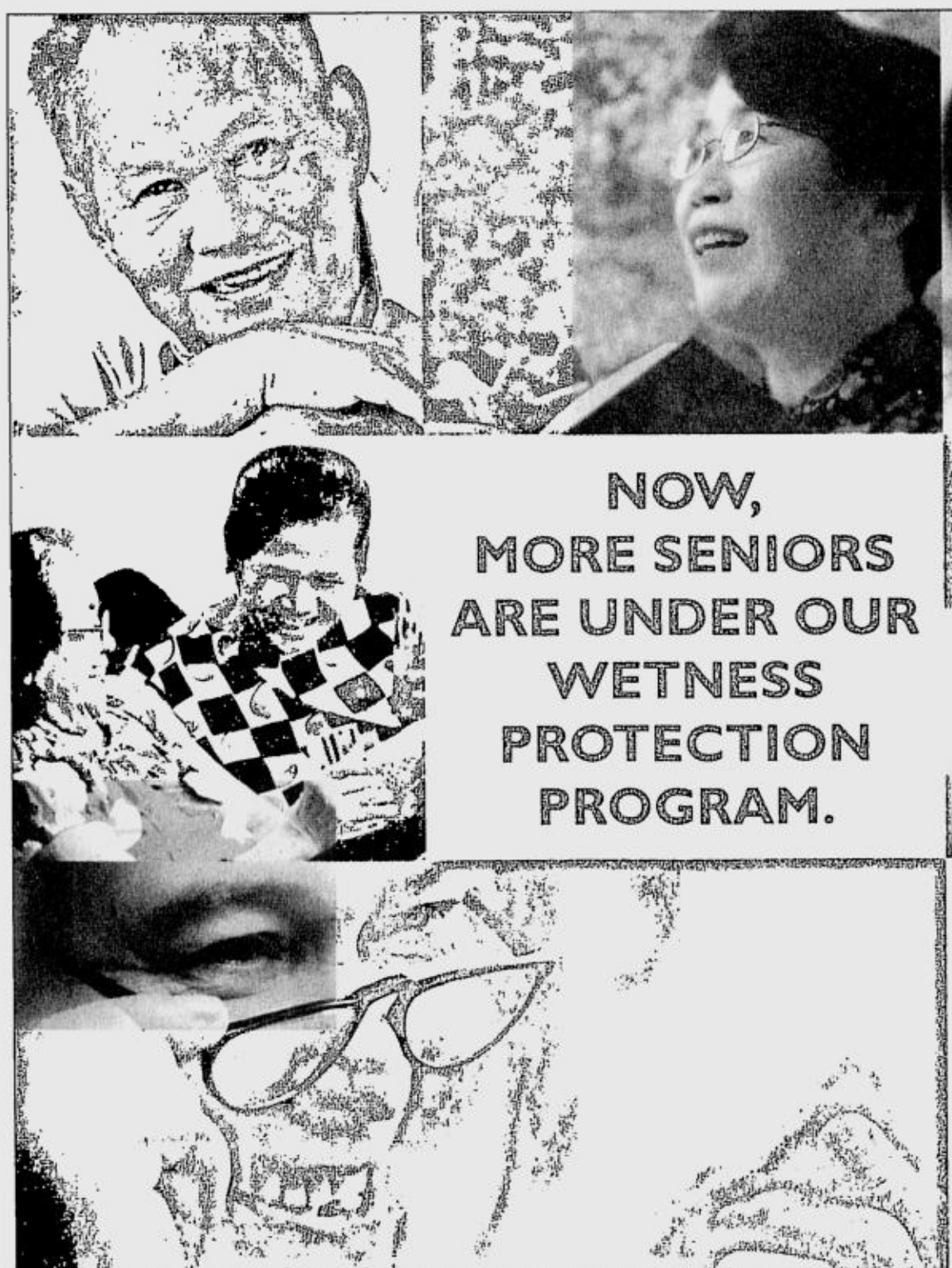


Scam papers came from office of slain airport exec

Story Below Col. 1

Cop chiefs firm up fight vs terror on fairways

By C. V. Esguerra

FOR the region's top security officials, the best way to tackle terrorism seems to be on the fairways.

Delegates to the 23rd Asean Chiefs of National Police

COP/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

No. 13 lucky for Erap, bad day for Davide

By Carlito Pablo, Armand N. Nocum and Philip C. Tubeza

THE NUMBER 13 isn't as bad as the superstitious Joseph Estrada thought it to be.

On a vote of 13-4 in the House committee on justice, the deposed President yesterday won the first round in his im-

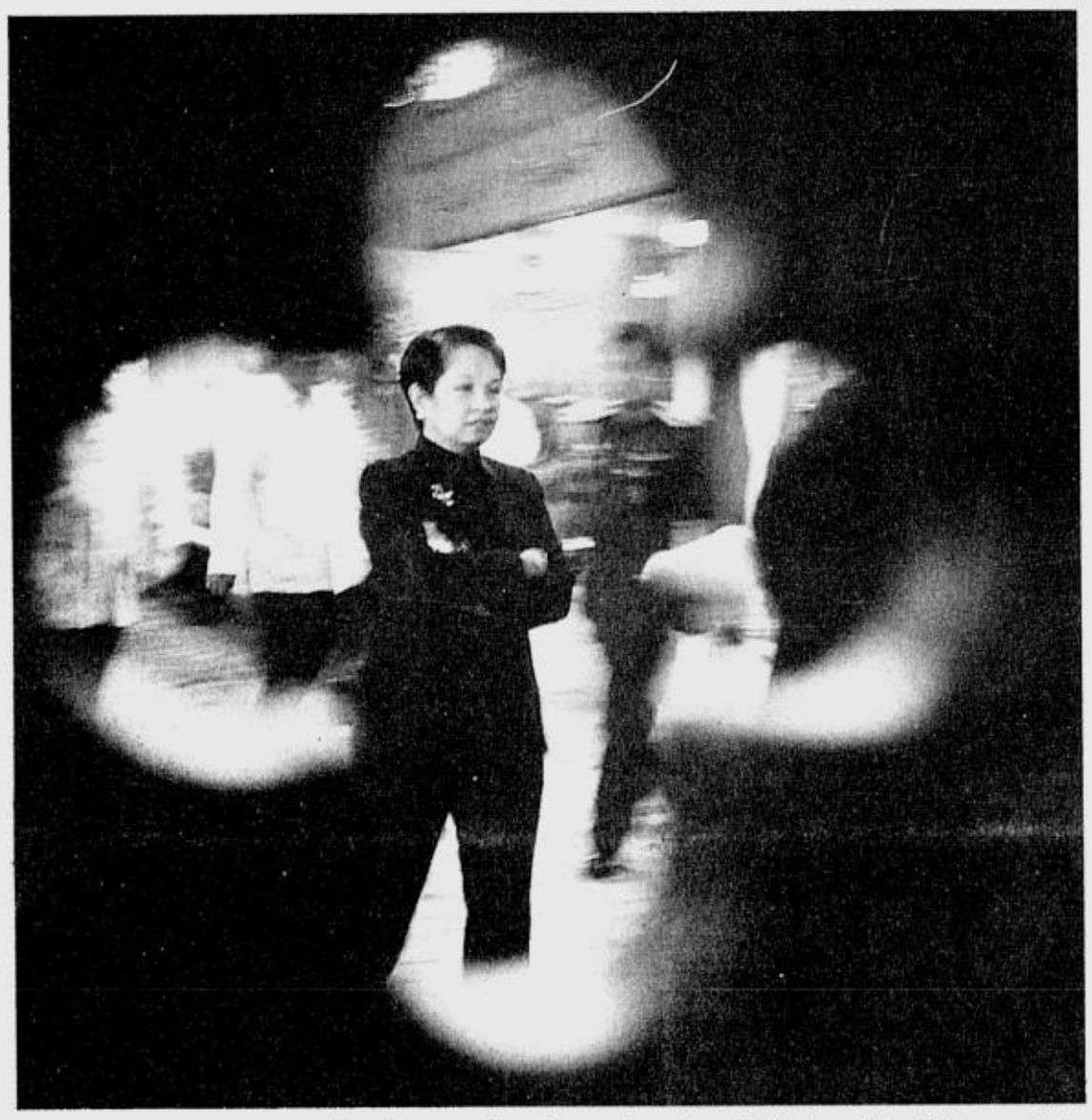
NO. 13/ A17

Thursday, September 11, 2003 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 275 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'I can't imagine life without GMA'

JESS YUSON

AN APPEAL from a teary-eyed Mike Arroyo: Leave us alone. Our marriage is a private matter between my wife and myself.



MARRIED to the country, President Macapagal continues to busy herself with the affairs of state, and not of the heart, and refuses to comment or be drawn into the affairs of her husband. EDWIN BACASMAS

Mike: We are not living separately

By Alcuin Valle Papa

CLOSE to tears, Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday faced reporters and read a prepared statement on the state of his marriage to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I cannot imagine a life without my wife beside me. She is my life and my heart," Arroyo declared at a press conference at the family-owned LTA Building in Makati City.

He said the President did not know he had called the press conference but that they were "on speaking terms."

It is also not true that he is living separately from his wife, he said.

The otherwise mum Arroyo faced the media a day after Lakas Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo suggested that the President seek legal separation and division of conjugal property, purportedly to shield herself from the fallout of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's "Jose Pidal" exposé, and to prevent her administration from being "destroyed."

He said their 35-year marriage was a "private matter" between his wife and himself.

"Like any couple, we have had our ups and downs, and our moments of joy and sadness. But through all these times we have been together, our love has sustained us throughout all our trials. I know that Gloria is the chief of state, but she is also my life and my heart," he said.

Arroyo also said that despite his wife's position, "we are still human beings with our lives to lead."

"Like you, we are a family with domestic

I CAN'T/ A15

Palace worried some Lakas men think Mike guilty

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Carlito Pablo and Cynthia Balana

THE MERE proposal by a Lakas congressman for President Macapagal-Arroyo to separate from her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo would strongly suggest that some members of the President's own party believe the First Gentleman is guilty as charged by Sen. Panfilo Lacson of laundering his wife's campaign contributions, some worried Palace officials told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Lacson, who alleged that Mike Arroyo hid about P260-million in campaign funds in several "Jose Pidal" accounts also intimated that the First Gentleman was carrying on an illicit relationship with his secretary and personal accountant, Victoria Toh. She al-

PALACE/ A15

Senators admit Iggy issue one for high court

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

SENATORS now acknowledge that the Supreme Court may have to rule on whether Ignacio Arroyo can invoke the right to privacy in refusing to answer questions from senators investigating allegations that his brother First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo laundered at least P260 million.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, the chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, pointed out that the high court would be called upon later to resolve two distinct but fundamental rights: the right of a citizen to privacy and the right of duly constituted authorities to compel someone to testify for the sake of public interest.

In short, whether privacy has more weight over public interest, and vice versa, he said.

He explained that the Bill of Rights in the Constitution was a protection of private individuals against the excesses and abuses of government.

SENATORS/ A15

Airport scam papers came from Diaz office

By Tony Bergonia

DOCUMENTS detailing an airport porter service contract that led to untaxed earnings of close to half a billion pesos were leaked from the office of Lilia Diaz days before she was killed in a morning ambush Tuesday in Parañaque City.

The INQUIRER had received the documents involving the Saber Development Foundation Inc. from an airport official who asked not to be named.

The papers were processed and evaluated in Diaz's office, the internal audit services department of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), which reviews and recommends the approval or rejection of concessionaires' contracts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 1 and 2.

The Saber contract, which was awarded during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was one of the biggest handled for review by the office of Diaz, MIAA assistant general manager for finance and administration.

The documents showed that the supposed non-stock, non-profit foundation had collected at least P446 million in untaxed porter service fees from departing and arriving passengers at the Naia 1 and 2.

Estrada has denied any knowledge of Saber and said it was his appointee, then MIAA head Antonio Gana, should be questioned about its contracts.

Diaz, 47, was shot and killed by a yet unidentified gunman while she was being driven to work. Her driver Edwin Defeo is in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation.

MIAA general manager Edgardo

AIRPORT/ A17

Peso bounces back to 54.95 to US dollar

AFTER falling for the fourth straight sessions, the peso yesterday closed higher against the dollar following a newly issued foreign exchange ruling that traders believed could ease demand for the US currency.

The peso finished at 54.95 against the US dollar on the Philippine Dealing System, up from 55.195 on Tuesday. Volume rose to $224.5 million from $114 million.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he hoped to see the peso strengthen by the end of the year. "Analysts see the peso around 54 to 54.50, which is probably a good number to look at," he told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap).

Even so, ForecastWeb.com said in a note to clients that market players still expected the peso to move toward 55.50 against the greenback on fears of a capital

PESO/ A17

9/11 victims: Indelible memories in tattoos

GROUND Zero, a 6.4-hectare area in Manhattan where the World Trade Center once stood as New York's tallest and proudest symbol of US economic might will be the center of commemorative rites for close to the 3,000 people who perished on 9/11 two years ago. AFP

NEW YORK—Alice Gould believes that when she joins her nephew Neil in heaven he will admire the tattoo on her right forearm and call her "a crazy old lady."

The 64-year-old homemaker from New York's Staten Island is one of many who chose to have their bodies inked with tattoos in order to memorialize loved ones killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center two years ago.

Gould's nephew Neil Dollard was working as a bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor of Tower One when terrorists flew hijacked planes into the buildings.

"It's my way of remembering him and I will take it to the grave with me," Gould said of the tattoo, part of a photographic exhibit. "When I get up there, I'm sure he'll say, 'good for you, you crazy old lady.' He was like that. I think he'd be proud."

Dollard was 28 when he and almost 2,800 others were killed in the destruction of the 110-story towers. Dollard had survived cancer as an infant. Gould helped

9/11/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FRONTPAGE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Moderate to occasionally strong winds blowing from the west will prevail over Extreme Northern Luzon.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/11/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

9/11 ANNIVERSARY REMINDER

GMA: Terror threat persists

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo placed the nation on alert yesterday for possible terrorist attempts to mark the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

"The anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy reminds us that we should not take the threat of terrorism lightly for we know that there are still a number of terror groups waiting for a chance to strike," the President warned in a statement.

"We must always remember the time-honored principle that the price of freedom is perpetual vigilance," she said. "We must never let down our guard against terrorists who strike when least expected."

The Philippines is a key ally of the United States in its global campaign against terror, and there have been concerns the country has become a target for terrorist groups in Southeast Asia.

While predominantly Muslim nations in Southeast Asia criticized the US-led campaign, the Philippines allowed US counterterrorism forces to train and arm members of the under-funded Philippine military battling groups such as the brutal Abu Sayyaf.

Ms Macapagal's statement came a day after security forces were placed on high alert to thwart possible retaliatory attacks from local Muslim radicals following the recent arrest in Thailand of Hambali, the operations chief of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group.

The Philippines has been among the Southeast Asian countries where the JI, said to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network blamed for the US attacks in 2001 as well as the bombings in Bali that killed more than 200 people last year, has staged attacks and maintained cells.

In addition, the country has long-standing security concerns—a Muslim separatist insurrection in the south, a resurgent Marxist rebellion and continuing reports of military restiveness following a failed July 27 military rebellion that Ms Macapagal said was an attempt to oust her.

Elite antiterror police units have also been placed around Manila, the military said.

"We are on alert for possible retaliation (because) of the capture of Hambali. So we heightened our alert level to blue. It's actually aimed at preparing for any terroristic activity," military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said on Tuesday.

He said at least 2,000 troops were on the heels of Hambali associate Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian member of the JI who escaped from the Camp Crame jail in July.

Both men had planned a spate of bombings in Manila in December 2000 that killed over 20 people, according to police.

In an interview with dzRB radio, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said terrorism knows no boundaries and that terrorists would strike at any chance they could get.

This is why it was important for countries to fight this scourge together particularly in sharing their information and coordinating their manhunt on international terrorists, Bunye said.

He noted that the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia have forged antiterrorist pacts and that other countries like Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam have stated they would also extend support.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said that concerns on terrorist attacks should provide fresh impetus for Congress to approve the antiterrorism bill.

Ramzi Yousef, convicted of conspiracy in a 1993 attempt to bomb the World Trade Center in New York, stayed in the Philippines with key Osama bin Laden lieutenant Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in the mid-1990s, according to police intelligence officials. Mohammed was arrested in Pakistan in March.

They said Yousef plotted to bomb US airliners flying out of Asia and assassinate Pope John Paul II, who visited Manila in 1995. The plans were foiled after police raided an apartment where Yousef and a companion had stayed and found a laptop and other evidence which officials said allowed them to uncover the plots.

Yousef fled the country, but companion Abdul Hakim Murad was arrested in 1995 and later told interrogators about plans to hijack an aircraft and slam it into a building in the United States, said Rodolfo Mendoza, the police officer who supervised the questioning.

Police intelligence officials warned US authorities about the plot but felt the follow-up was not thorough, he said. *AP, AFP and Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

Violence mars rally vs WTO

VIOLENCE marred yesterday's protest actions against the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Cancun, Mexico, when riot police dispersed more than 500 militant workers and peasants who tried to march through downtown Manila to Malacañang.

The protest came as 4,700 delegates from 146 countries gathered starting yesterday in Cancun for the crucial WTO talks which will tackle the tariff concessions being sought by developing countries and the reduction in subsidies by rich nations.

Police used their batons to hit some of the protesters and block their march to the palace after a peaceful rally outside the US Embassy. Several protesters were injured in the dispersal.

One victim was brought to the Philippine General Hospital while several others who sustained head injuries were brought to the Ospital ng Maynila and other hospitals for treatment. As of press time, some protesters were still missing.

Six protesters were arrested and brought to the Western Police District Precinct No. 5 for questioning.

Worldwide protests led by La Via Campesina are being held simultaneously against the Cancun trade meet which started yesterday.

Chanting slogans such as "Reject the Cancun meeting" and "Demolish the WTO," the activists, mainly farmers, students and urban poor, marched from their anti-WTO camp at the Philippine Independent Church on Taft Avenue to the US Embassy but were blocked by WPD policemen.

The protesters were again blocked at the corner of Padre Faura. Police later allowed the group to march up to Kalaw Street where barricades were set up, forcing the protesters to hold their protest action there before proceeding to Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang.

Eleanor de Guzman, Anakbayan secretary general, condemned the "violent dispersals meant to pacify the protest movement against globalization."

She said many youth protesters suffered bruises and wounds, some on the head, during the dispersal.

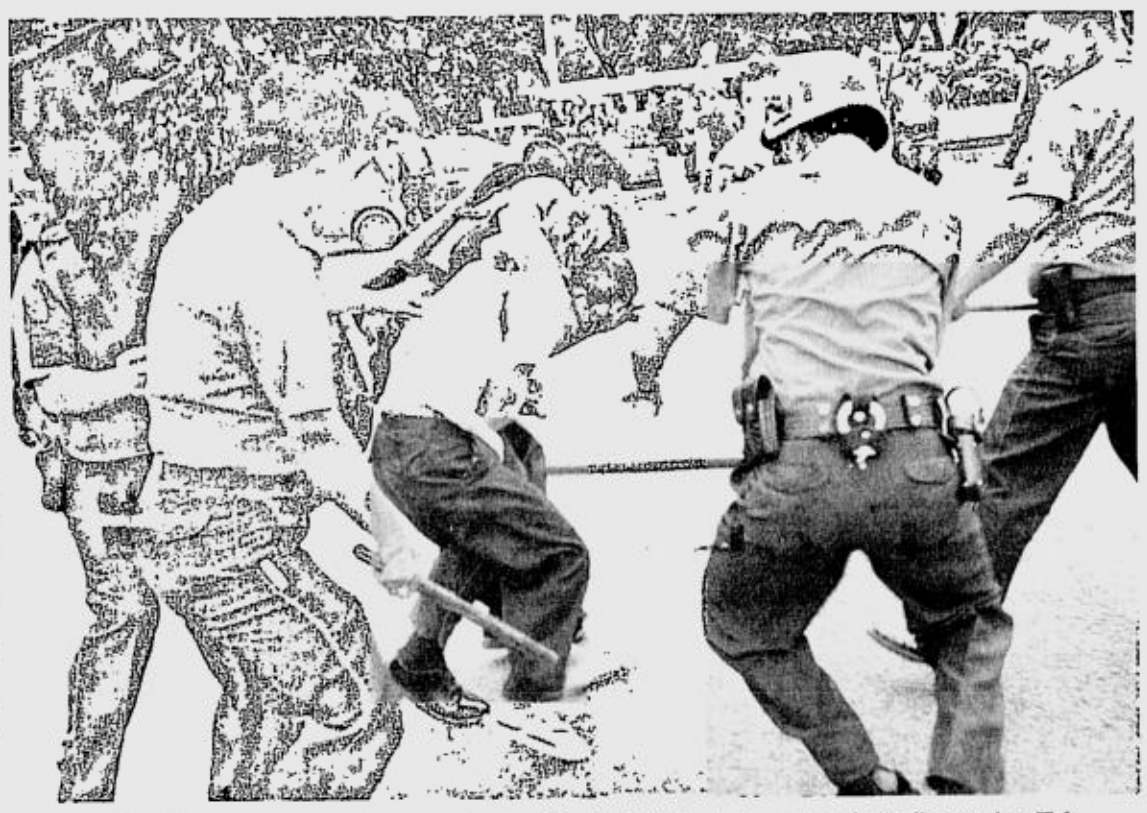
A day before, eight students and members of Anakbayan and League of Filipino Students were arrested and detained at the WPD5 along UN Avenue during a similar protest action.

The protesters were on the way to the Philippine Independent Church where other sectors were holding a camp-out against WTO.

Local militant groups have blamed the WTO for the country's agricultural and trade woes and have urged the government to pull out of the WTO.

Zenaida Soriano, spokesperson of Amihan (National Federation of Peasant Women) noted that due to the WTO and the government's neglect of the plight of Filipino women, more rural females have been displaced from agricultural employment.

Groups opposed to WTO on Tuesday kicked off their two-day protest billed Anakpawis Camp-Out Against WTO, a counterpoint to the world trade body's fifth ministerial meeting in Cancun. *Norman Bordadora, Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau with Reuters report*



ANTIRIOT policemen try to subdue a protester with nightsticks during yesterday's dispersal on Taft Avenue. ERIK ARAZAS

GMA orders big hunt for Al-Ghozi

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ordered police and military brass yesterday to intensify the hunt for escaped Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bombmaker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Ms Macapagal, who is also acting defense secretary, met her military and police officials to review security preparedness on the eve of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"The president impressed upon us and directed us to strengthen our efforts, in capturing Al-Ghozi," military vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said.

"There are sufficient troops committed in this particular regard, there would be a need to invigorate more our efforts, particularly in intelligence and networking," he said.

"It will be our wish to have Al-Ghozi captured in the soonest possible time," he added, stressing that no time frame was given.

Al-Ghozi, the highest ranking JI member in custody in the Philippines, escaped from a Manila jail in July, dealing a severe blow to the global war on terrorism.

He had been serving a 17-year jail term for explosives possession when he and two Filipino Muslim militants casually walked out of prison.

Al-Ghozi had also confessed to helping plot and finance a spate of bombings in Manila in December 2000 with the help of JI operations chief Hambali, who himself is now in US custody.

About 2,000 police officers, backed by military troops, have been scouring areas in Mindanao for Al-Ghozi. Officials believe he is hiding somewhere in the southern Philippines and is being aided by local Muslim militants.

On Tuesday, troops overran what they claimed was a monitoring post being used by Al-Ghozi's allies in the Zamboanga peninsula. *AFP*

Top Abu leader slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrilla suspected of involvement in the 2001 killing of a US hostage was shot dead and two other rebels captured in separate police operations in the southern Philippines, an official said yesterday.

Senior Abu Sayyaf leader Que Alkisam Alfa was killed in a gunbattle Monday when troops caught up with him in a coastal town in Tawi-Tawi province, regional police chief Acmad Omar said.

Alfa had escaped from nearby Basilan island last year amid a massive military manhunt. He has been implicated in the killing of US citizen Guillermo Sobero, who along with two other Americans and 17 Filipino tourists, were seized by the rebels from a local beach resort in May 2001.

Only one of the American hostages was rescued alive, while most of the Filipinos escaped or were freed one after the other. *AFP*

No quarantine for F4

FANS of F4 and Meteor Garden take heart.

Malacañang yesterday said there are no plans to impose quarantine measures against visitors from SARS-struck countries even after it raised the alert level against the deadly virus.

This means that the concert dubbed "The Event" would push through as scheduled even with renewed concerns over the spread of the SARS virus following the confirmation of a new case in Singapore Tuesday.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said there were "no plans" to quarantine the F4 and Meteor Garden stars because Taiwan, where the celebrities hail from, has already been stricken off the World Health Organization's watch list of potential sources of the SARS virus.

The UN Health agency declared on July 5 that the virus has been contained in Taiwan which used to be considered as the world's third biggest hotspot for SARS infection.

The stars of F4 and Meteor Garden are set to arrive Friday for their concert on Saturday.

At the height of the SARS panic early this year, the government enforced quarantine measures on passengers from flights coming from SARS-affected countries like Taiwan and Singapore.

Urban banker presses rap vs BSP execs

By Elena R. Torrijos and Philip C. Tubeza

THE FORMER president of Urban Bank yesterday petitioned the Supreme Court to set aside the Ombudsman's order dismissing his complaint of "falsification" and graft against Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials.

Teodoro C. Borlongan requested the high court to direct the Ombudsman to file the appropriate charges against respondents BSP governor Rafael Buenaventura, deputy governor Alberto Reyes, managing director Dolores Yuvienco, directors Candon Guerrero and Tomas Aure Jr., and general counsel Juan de Zuñiga, Jr.

In a complaint he filed at the Ombudsman's Office more than two years ago, Borlongan had charged the BSP officials with allegedly altering official reports and falsifying the findings.

The reports served as the Monetary Board's basis to order the closure of Urban Bank Inc., Urbancorp Development Bank, and Urbancorp Investments Inc. on April 26, 2000.

The BSP officials disputed the charges and claimed that the closure of the bank was aboveboard.

The Ombudsman divided Borlongan's complaint into two cases, one dealing with the administrative and another with the criminal aspect of the complaint.

The Ombudsman dismissed the criminal case last July and rejected Borlongan's motion for reconsideration.

In the administrative case, the Ombudsman last year exonerated Buenaventura and Zuñiga and found Reyes, Yuvienco, Guerrero and Aure guilty only of simple neglect of duty.

But on Aug. 13, 2003, the Court of Appeals handed down a decision finding Buenaventura, Reyes, Yuvienco, Guerrero and Aure guilty of "gross neglect of duty" in the closure of UBI, UDB and UII and imposing on them a one-year suspension without pay. Buenaventura and others have appealed the CA decision.

Reyes and Aure said the CA ruling was "disturbing' and a "dangerous" legal precedent, saying it was "based on a wrong premise and inapplicable jurisprudence."

In the petition he filed yesterday at the SC, Borlongan said the Ombudsman committed "grave abuse of discretion" in dismissing the criminal cases against the central bank officials, while acting on the administrative case and finding the respondents guilty of neglect of duty "for the very same acts."

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DOJ upholds Joker in libel rap vs Syjuco

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has upheld the libel charge of Sen. Joker Arroyo against Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco.

In a three-page resolution, Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez on Tuesday reversed the decision of the Makati prosecutor to dismiss the case against Syjuco.

"We are convinced that the statements made by the respondent are libelous since they indeed depict the complainant as a corrupt and dishonest official who steals government money," Gutierrez said.

"We agree with the complainant that respondent's utterances were attended with malice," she added.

Syjuco, who lost to Arroyo twice as Makati congressman, made the alleged libelous statements on the RPN-9 television show "Wake-Up Call" on Sept. 8, 1999.

The congressman alleged that when the Aquino administration came to power after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, Arroyo took over a 12.7-hectare government property in Makati.

He said the government lost billions of pesos in potential income because Arroyo leased the property but the rent allegedly did not go to the government coffers.

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. Which two members of F4 are coming to Manila for a concert?
   a. Jerry & Vaness
   b. Ken & Vic
   c. Vaness & Ken
   d. Vic & Jerry
2. What sport uses a puck?
   a. hockey
   b. badminton
   c. tennis
   d. soccer
3. Which Disney cartoon princess met 7 dwarfs?
   a. Cinderella
   b. Snow White
   c. Sleeping Beauty
   d. Jasmine
4. Which was not written by Jose Rizal?
   a. Noli Me Tangere
   b. El Filibusterismo
   c. Mi Ultimo Adios
   d. Bata, Bata, Paano ka Ginawa?
5. The hero that founded Katipunan was...
   a. Andres Bonifacio
   b. Jose Rizal
   c. Emilio Jacinto
   d. Manuel Quezon

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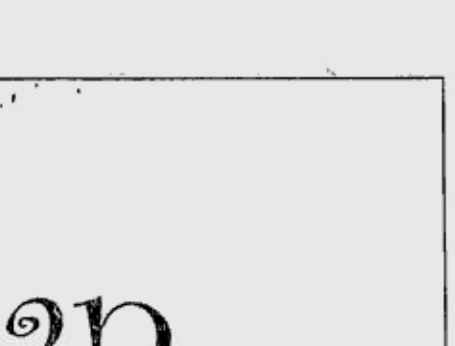

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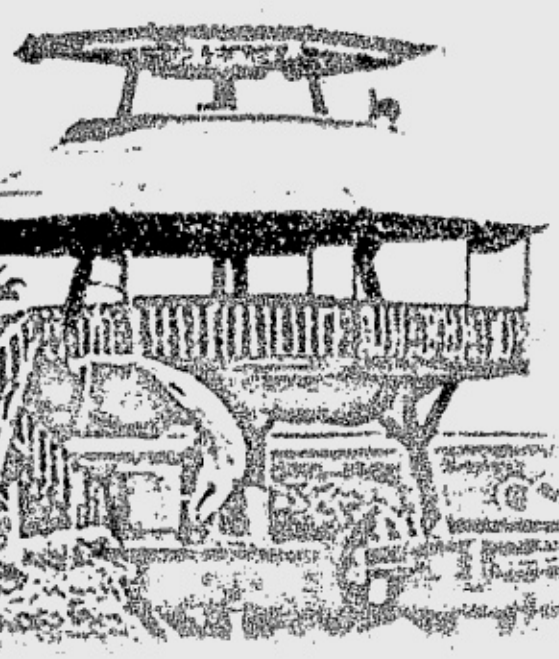

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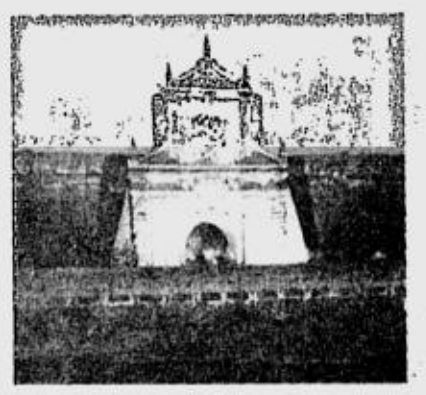

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Computer expert questions PNP signature experts

By Christian V. Esguerra

A COMPUTER expert yesterday questioned the police handwriting experts' findings that businessman Ignacio Arroyo Jr. owned the controversial Jose Pidal signatures.

Ike Seneres of the Information System Security Society of the Philippines said the police signature experts made a "critical error in methodology" in the examination.

The Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory should have used previous signatures of Arroyo for comparison with the Pidal specimens, he said.

"The samples used were basically controlled and therefore polluted," said Seneres, former chief of the National Computer Center and the National Crime Information System under ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Seneres noted that the PNP merely compared at least six signatures prepared by Arroyo to the ones supplied by Sen. Panfilo Lacson who claimed in an exposé that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Ignacio Arroyo's older brother, was the owner of several Jose Pidal accounts containing laundered money.

Arroyo, who came forward to claim the Jose Pidal accounts, executed the Jose Pidal specimen signatures just days before he went to the crime laboratory.

Seneres said a person's handwriting, more so his signature, changes over time.

By comparing the Jose Pidal specimens with signatures made by Arroyo at approximately the same time that the acounts were opened, the PNP would have come up with a "more credible result," he said.

"They're claiming a zero margin of error in their report but how could that be?" he asked. "How can a test be even credible with their kind of methodology?"

Seneres said he had been told by someone from the PNP that the crime lab had an Optical Character Recognition equipment, which he said was a more credible technology in signature examinations.

Even then, he said the equipment would not come up with a convincing result if the specimens were volunteered by a particular party.

"As they say, garbage in, garbage our," he said.

Seneres also questioned an earlier set of PNP findings that Mike Arroyo could not have made the Jose Pidal signatures.

The ISSSP attacked the PNP's allegedly "outdated" methodology.

Police experts had cited seven "points of divergence" between the Mike Arroyo and Jose Pidal signatures.

Repeal of anticonsumer provisions of Epira sought

SEN. JUAN Ponce Enrile has urged Congress to repeal what he called anticonsumer provisions of the Electricity and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to provide relief to millions of consumers and industries suffering from high cost of electricity.

Enrile said Republic Act 91136 (Epira) contained onerous and highly-exploitative provisions that negated the intention of reforming the ailing electricity and power industry, improving its services, and providing reliable, efficient and reasonably priced electricity to consumers, businesses and industries.

He said it was incumbent on Congress to correct the anticonsumer provisions of Epira, which he said favored power distribution firms and their affiliated independent power producers. He specifically cited Meralco and its power suppliers like Quezon Power Ltd., Duracom and First Gas Power.

Enrile was the lone oppositor to the Epira in the previous Senate. He said "there's no argument against the need to amend the Epira and protect the people. Two years since the enactment of this controversial law, the power and electric supply situation has worsened instead of improving."

Enrile proposed the amendment or repeal of the following provisions of the Epira:

1. Section 45 (b) which allows Meralco and other distribution utilities to negotiate bilateral power supply contracts for up to 90 percent of their power requirements without public bidding. The same provision permits a company to source 90 percent of its requirements from affiliated or sister companies.

2. Section 33, which allows Meralco to collect from the universal levy what they call stranded costs recovery.

3. Section 66, which "does not make any sense at all." While it required a review of Napocor IPP contracts it "omitted the privately-negotiated IPP contracts of power distributors like Meralco that were signed before Dec. 31, 2000, he said.

4. Section 34, which mandates a universal charge that means "even those who use their own generators will be charged about P0.40 per kwh they produce.

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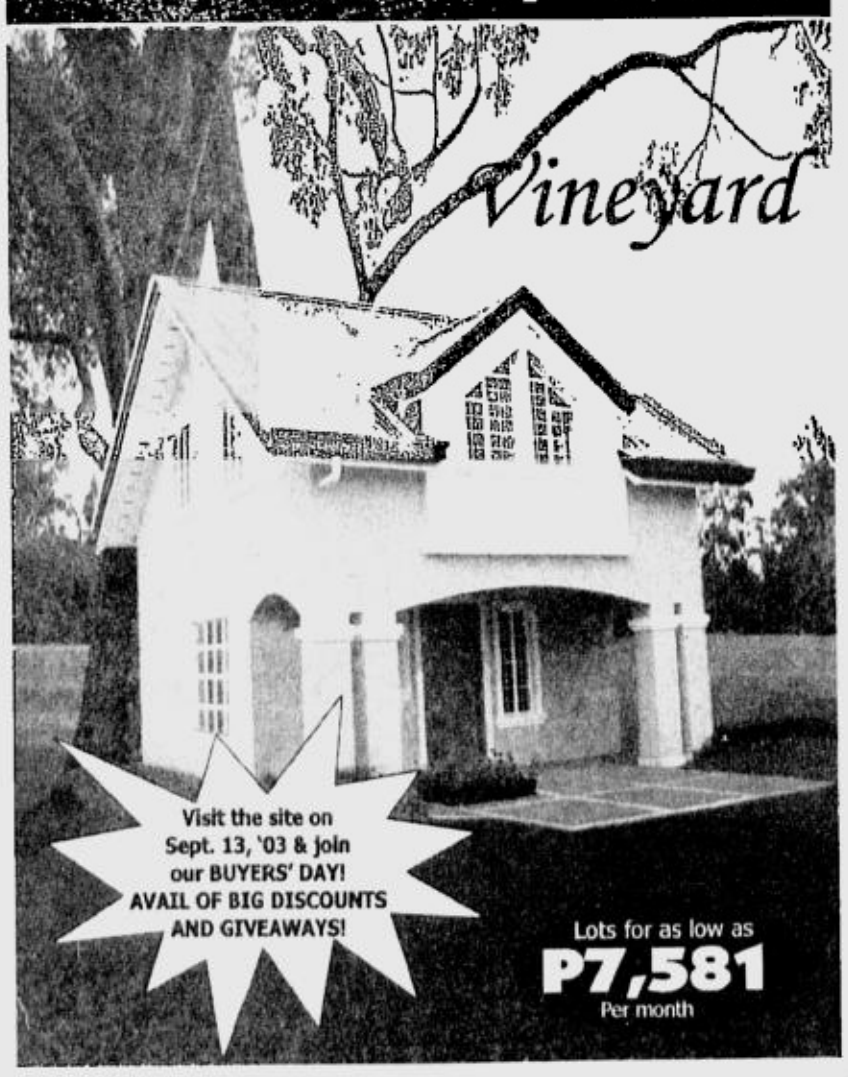

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DepEd faces shortage of teachers, rooms

By Dona Pazzibugan

PUBLIC schools face a shortage of about 9,000 teachers and 10,000 classrooms next school year, according to the Department of Education.

The DepEd said its P110.5 billion proposed budget for next year only allows the hiring of 10,000 new teachers, which would cost P970 million.

But it estimates that, at a student-teacher ratio of 50 to 1, the public school system needs a total of 19,017 teachers, requiring P2 billion.

To ease the shortage of 9,017 teachers, Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz said the department will transfer vacated teaching posts from the "blue" areas, which have excess teachers, to the "red" areas, which lack teachers.

The proposed budget also allows for the construction of 8,000 classrooms at a cost of P3 billion.

The DepEd estimates that it needs a total of 18,708 new classrooms, based on a class size of 60 pupils to a room.

This would cost P7 billion.

At present, about 20 percent of public schools in Metro Manila are running three shifts due to overcrowded classrooms, according to Luz.

He said the ideal class size is 45 students.

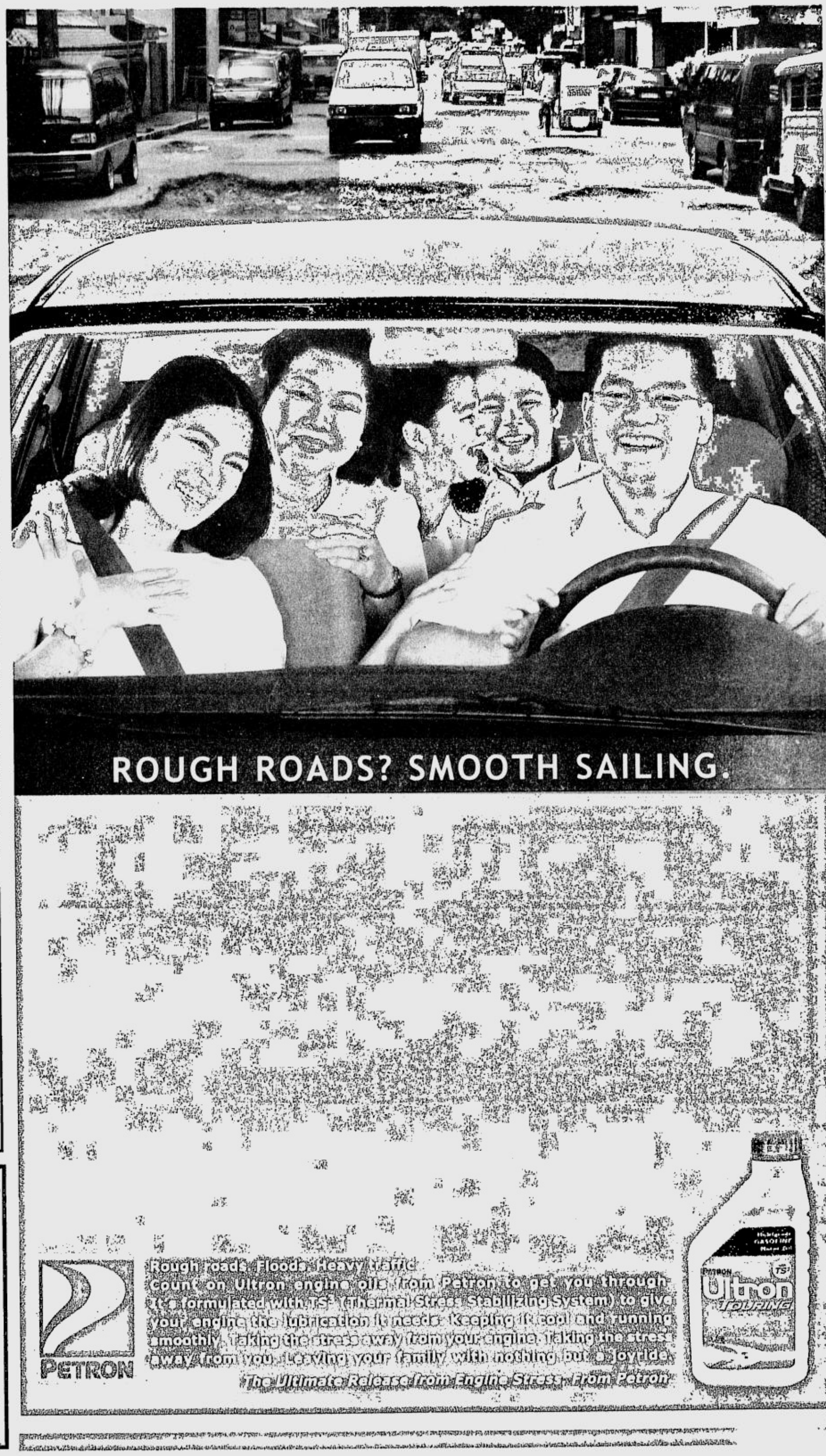
But some public schools have more than 60 students per class, so they go on shifts.

To rein in the budget deficit, Malacañang allowed the DepEd to ask Congress for only a P4 billion increase to its P106.5 billion current budget.

The DepEd originally asked for an increase of P14 billion.

Gordon gets ₱1.1-B budget boost for tourism

By Cynthia D. Balana



THE HOUSE Committee on Appropriations yesterday approved the P1.15 billion budget proposal of the Department of Tourism for 2004 in a bid to boost the embattled Philippine tourism industry.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon presented before a committee chaired by Rep. Rolando Andaya a comprehensive masterplan detailing the department's programs and projects for the coming year.

These included key infrastructure projects like airport improvement and development, tour packages, PR programs, marketing strategies, establishment of tourism economic zones and the promotion of Wealth of Wonders (WOW) Philippines.

Gordon cited problems confronting the Philippine tourism industry that contributed to low tourist arrivals such as the lack of advertising support, the negative impact brought by the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York, the Abu Sayaff hostage-taking incidents, the SARS scare and the Oakwood mutiny among others.

Of the DOT's P1.15B budget, P979.84 million will go to the budget of the DOT-Office of the Secretary, while P31.11 million and P143.15 million will go to the DOT's attached agencies, the Intramuros Administration and the National Parks Development Committee.

Intramuros' revival

Gordon informed the committee that Intramuros, one of the historical spots in the country, has been successfully revived into a cultural-historical center. With proper advertising support, he said, tourism will prosper even more.

"The department's vision is not only to make the Philippines a premiere Asian tourism destination but also to create jobs and generate revenues, unite around a sense of national accomplishment, and preserve and share the country's diverse cultural heritage," Gordon said.

Rep. Robert Barbers of Surigao del Norte, whose brother is general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, said the DOT should create Tourism Economic Zone Authorities in other provinces, especially in Mindanao.

"There are many beautiful tourist sites in Mindanao which should also be developed to attract more foreign and local tourists," Barbers said.

For his part Rep. Roque Ablan of Ilocos Norte said that the DOT and PTA should come up with policies for local government units to encourage more tourists to visit their areas.

Ablan said that Chinese and Taiwanese tourists have easier access to their neighbors such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand for these countries don't require visas. Ablan said this should also be considered by the DOT to encourage more tourists.

For his part Rep. Eduardo Veloso said that aside from the promotional brochures, the DOT should also come up with directional maps for tourists.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In connection with the alleged account of Ricardo Medrano with account number 56102-000494-2 in Hongkong Branch of the International Commercial Bank of China, the bank declares that no such account of Ricardo Medrano has ever existed in Hongkong branch of The International Commercial Bank of China.

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Why Pinoys in Jordan can't register as voters

AMMAN, Jordan—Jordanians employing Filipino workers are withholding their passports, thus preventing them from registering at the embassy for the May 2004 presidential election, diplomats said in remarks published Wednesday.

"We appeal to all employers of Filipinos to allow them to come to the embassy with their passports so they will be able to register as overseas absentee voters," Filipino Vice Consul Arvic Arevalo told the Jordan Times.

Filipinos have been invited to register from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30, but only some 500 out of the estimated 10,000 employed in Jordan have shown up so far, the embassy said.

"Our target is to register 2,000 voters. We submitted a very conservative figure, knowing the existing constraints," Ambassador Ruperto Dizon told the Jordan Times. According to the report, half of the Filipinos in Jordan, mostly domestic helpers, are living here illegally, namely because their employers have not provided them with the proper work and residency permits.

Despite the lowered target, government will still spend about P400 million for the registration of the 200,000 voters in about 84 Philippine embassies and consulates worldwide and an additional P200 to P300 million on election day.

The figure is only P200 million lower compared to the allotted P900 million for the registration and validation of 40 million voters nationwide.

"For now, we're spending P400 million for the registration...training, buying machines for validating—although some are not being used—forms which is for your target beneficiary of about 1 million voters, transport costs," Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said during an interview at the Citio Fernandina forum yesterday.

Come election time, Abalos said that they will be spending an additional P200 million to P300 million. This amount, he said, would be used for the transport, lodging and food for the boards of canvassers who would be deployed overseas and other related expenses. *AFP with reports from Martin Marfil*

TEXT NEWS

SONY Ericsson recently signed a partnership agreement with the Philippine Daily Inquirer for the INQUIRER's 'What's News' Text Game. Daily questions are found on Page A3 of the INQUIRER. Texters can win a T100 daily, membership to the INQUIRER Reader's Club, and a chance to win cash and prizes worth over P1 million in the grand draw. Signing the contract are (from left) INQUIRER corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, president and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, Sony Ericsson general manager Dennis Manzano and marketing manager Patrick Larraga.

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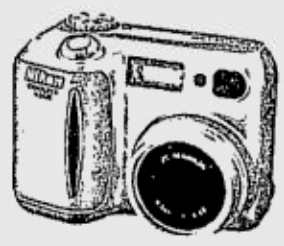

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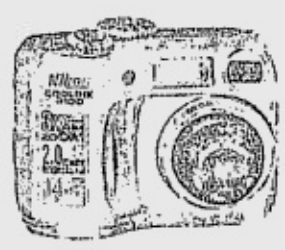

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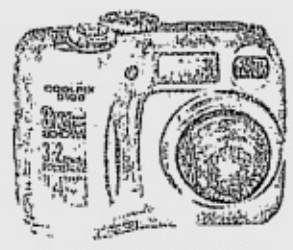

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RP ready for SARS relapse

THE PHILIPPINES is prepared to deal with a possible resurgence of the deadly SARS virus following a new confirmed case in Singapore, health secretary Manuel Dayrit said Wednesday.

Dayrit said that procedures to contain a spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) remain "in place and at full effectiveness in the wake of the new case confirmed in Singapore."

Our anti-SARS measures continue to protect the country." *AFP*

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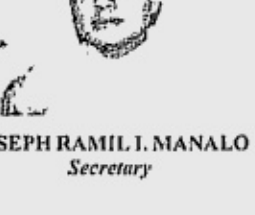

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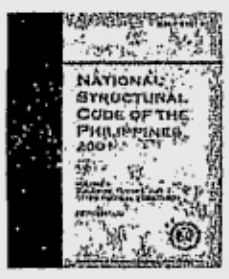

The National Structural Code of the Philippines (NSCP C101-01) Volume 1, Buildings, Towers, and other Vertical Structures, Fifth Edition, 2001

As a referral code of the National Building Code of the Philippines

Pursuant to the General Powers given to the Secretary of Public Works and Highways vested in him by Section 203 of Presidential Decree 1096, otherwise known as the National Building Code of the Philippines, the National Structural Code of the Philippines (NSCP) as prepared by the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP) and passed upon by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), is hereby adopted as a Referral Code of PD 1096.

Approved in the City of Manila, Philippines
This 19th day of June 2003

FLORANTE SORIQUEZ
Acting Secretary

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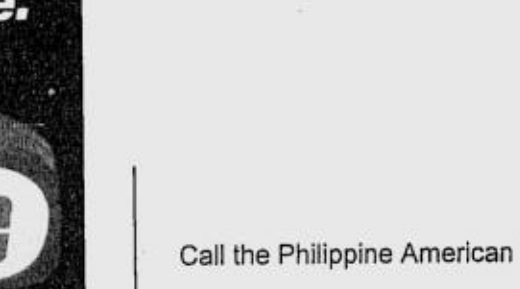
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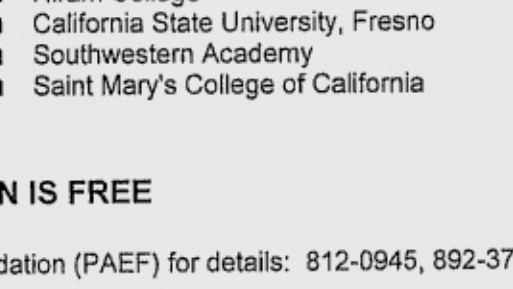
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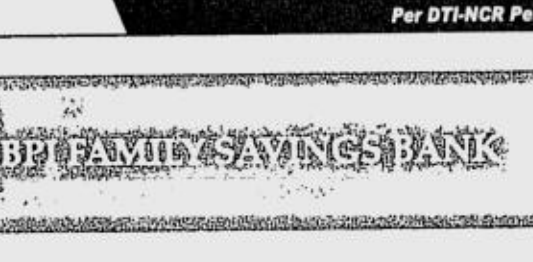
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

2 suicide bombings kill 15 in Israel

ISHON LETZION, Israel—Twin Palestinian suicide bombings—one at a bus stop crowded with soldiers near Tel viv, the second five hours later at a popular Jerusalem ightspot—killed at least 15 Israelis and wounded and naimed dozens as the region grappled with a new wave of avage bloodletting.

There were no claims of responsibility, but the Islamic militant roup Hamas, which has carried ut most of the roughly 100 suicide ombings against Israelis over the ıst three years, had been expected o avenge Israel's attempt on the life f its spiritual leader on Saturday.

The two bombers were Hamas ctivists from Rantis village west of lamallah in the West Bank, Israel ladio reported. It appears that the ombings were coordinated beween the two men, who studied ogether at Bir Zeit University in lamallah, the radio added.

In one Gaza neighborhood, alestinians fired assault rifles in he air and about 100 took to the treets in celebration after the atack on the Hillel Cafe. In the Bueij refugee camp in the central aza Strip, some Hamas supporrs celebrated by distributing andies to the families of those illed in previous violence.

Israel's military has relentlessly argeted Hamas militants since the group claimed a suicide bombing last month that killed 22 people on a Jerusalem bus. Earlier Tuesday, Israeli troops in Hebron killed two Hamas members—including the group's leader in the West Bank city—and a 12-year-old bystander, and blew up a seven-story apartment building where the militants were hiding out.

The day's violence underscored the collapse of US-backed peace efforts and came amid political uncertainty after the resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

An increasing number of Israeli officials were calling for the expulsion of Yasser Arafat, and expectations were mounting that Israel will step up military strikes and possibly invade the Gaza Strip—which Israel has not yet reoccupied—to root out the Hamas leadership.

Security was extremely tight throughout the country, especially in Jerusalem, in anticipation of a Hamas attack.

AN ISRAELI police investigator searches for evidence at the scene of a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem cafe. A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a cafe in Jerusalem Tuesday night, killing at least six people and wounding about 40 others, witnesses and rescue workers said. AP

The first bombing came about 6 p.m., as soldiers were waiting for rides home outside the Tsrifin army base near the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion.

Cpl. Eyal Schneider, 20, was walking toward the bus stop when he heard the explosion and saw a fireball. "People were running from the bus stop shouting 'bomb! bomb!'" he said.

Ambulances from nearby Assaf Harofeh hospital quickly lined up at the scene, rescue workers rushing to aid screaming victims.

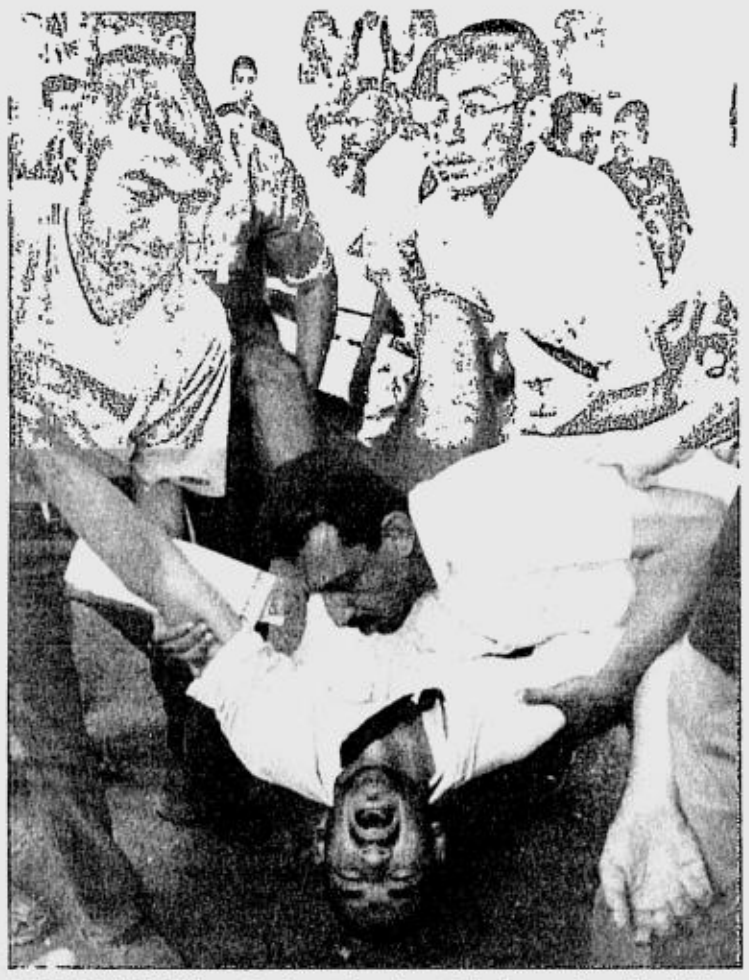
"I saw the bodies, the body parts strewn around, heard the screams, and tried to help," said one witness, who gave his name only as Roy.

Police and hospital officials said eight were killed in addition to the bomber. Fifteen people were being treated at the hospital, all but one of them soldiers, spokeswoman Nurit Nehemia said. Others were treated for minor injuries and released. Hours later, the aluminum walls of the bus shelter remained splattered with blood.

Leaders of Hamas praised the attacks but stopped short of claiming responsibility. "This operation, whoever is behind it, is a natural reaction for the bloody aggression against our people," said Hamas spokesperson Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who survived an Israeli attempt on his life in June.

Israeli government spokesperson Avi Pazner said "the responsibility is shared between the organization that carried out the atrocity and the Palestinian Authority that did nothing to prevent it, and Israel will react accordingly."

More than five hours later, about 11:20 p.m., another suicide bomber entered the Hillel Cafe, a popular bistro in the posh German colony neighborhood of Jerusalem. AP



A PALESTINIAN is rushed to a Gaza hospital after an Israeli missile strike wounded a political leader of the militant Islamic movement Hamas. REUTERS

Hamas leader son, aide die in Israeli retaliatory strike

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli warplanes on Wednesday bombed the home of a senior Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar, wounding him and killing his son and a bodyguard, witnesses and hospital officials said. In all, about 25 people were hurt, including Zahar's wife and daughter.

The bomb hit the Zahar home in Gaza City's Rimal neighborhood, leveling the building and sending huge plumes of smoke into the air. Several adjacent houses were also destroyed. Palestinian police were struggling to control an angry crowd that gathered at the scene.

Zahar, who witnesses said was in a garden beside the house at the time, was lightly hurt in the leg and taken to nearby Shifa Hospital. The bodies of the dead were badly burned. Hospital officials identified one of the dead as Zahar's 30-year-old bodyguard. Relatives identified the other victim as Zahar's son, Khaled, 29.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment. The air strike came a day after suicide bombers apparently dispatched by Hamas killed 15 Israelis in twin attacks at a bus stop crowded with soldiers and at a popular Jerusalem nightspot.

Staff at the hospital called over loudspeakers for people to donate blood to help treat the wounded, who were brought to the hospital in ambulances and private cars. Among the wounded were five children and three women, hospital officials said. Three of the wounded were in critical condition.

Zahar's wife suffered serious injuries but was in stable condition after surgery, said Dr. Hazaa Abed, director of surgery at Shifa Hospital. A daughter of Zahar was also lightly injured.

Zahar himself left hospital, and Hamas officials said he was taken to a safe place.

The strike flattened Zahar's two-story house, destroyed two nearby buildings and damaged a mosque. Witnesses described feeling the ground shake and seeing a spray of debris. A fog of dust covered the area for several minutes.

Men were searching through the rubble to check if anyone was buried underneath. It wasn't clear if there were other people missing.

Rami Salameh, 29, helped take Zahar out of an ambulance. "He had his hand behind his head and his hand was covered with blood," Salameh said. "When I moved him to the stretcher with the help of other people he screamed from pain in his back. But he was talking to us saying, 'I am OK. I am OK.'"

Hamas has stopped short of claiming responsibility for Tuesday's bombings, but has threatened unprecedented revenge for Israel's failed attempt over the weekend to kill several Hamas leaders, including founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in an air strike.

After Wednesday's strike, hundreds of students from the Islamic University, where Zahar is the dean of the nursing school, gathered at the hospital. Some of them held Hamas banners. Others chanted, "Death to Sharon" and "God is greater than the aggressors." AP

Car bomb rocks US intel office

IRBIL, Iraq—A suicide car bomber struck the US intelligence headquarters here, a Kurdish security official on Wednesday. He said three Iraqis were killed, including a 12-year-old boy. Six Americans were wounded, three of them with serious injuries to their abdomen caused by flying glass.

Forty-one Iraqis were hurt, the official said, adding that the suicide bomb vehicle was packed with TNT. He said several homes in the neighborhood, which was cordoned off by US soldiers, were destroyed.

A witness to the attack, Jafar Marouf, a 31-year-old teacher, was visiting a friend on Tuesday night on the quiet residential street when he saw a white KIA four-wheel drive approach quickly and then explode with the driver inside. Marouf was slightly injured and spoke with the AP in the hospital.

The wounded included children from nearby houses and Iraqi Kurdish guards. Irbil is the largest city in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. AP

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Court grants death wish of Bali blast mastermind

BALI, Indonesia—Judges sentenced an Islamic militant to death by firing squad after finding him guilty Wednesday of being the "intellectual mastermind" behind last year's deadly nightclub bombings on Bali island.

SAMUDRA

"Imam Samudra has been clearly proven to have planned a terrorist act, and we hand down the sentence of death," Judge Wayan Sugawa said.

Samudra shouted "God is Great" after the verdict was read, while several people in courtroom cheered.

Samudra pumped his fist into the air as he was led out by police. "Go to hell, you infidels" and "Bush, Sharon," he yelled in English.

The latest sentence was another indication that Indonesian authorities are serious about using the criminal justice system to crack down on terrorism, without invoking draconian internal security acts—such as those in Malaysia and Singapore—that allow police to detain suspects for long periods without trial or access to legal advice.

Government leaders have said they are proud that their country has not compromised civil liberties in the struggle to eradicate Muslim militancy.

Earlier Wednesday, Judge Ifa Sudewi said that Samudra played "a dominant role in the Bali bomb blasts and ... is the intellectual mastermind behind the Bali bomb explosions."

Samudra, 33, an Afghan-trained fighter has said he wants to die as a martyr. But during the trial he denied the charges that he had commanded the group of militants who carried out the Oct. 12 attack that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

It was the deadliest terrorist atrocity since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Prosecutors said Samudra selected the recruits and helped fund the Bali attack. His goal, they said, was to avenge the treatment of Muslims at the hands of the United States and Israel.

Almost half of the victims of the twin blasts were Australian tourists, while seven were from the United States.

Reading through the summation of the trial, Sudewi said Samudra had described the blasts as "revenge against the tyranny of America." She said Samudra had met Osama bin Laden during the three years he spent in Afghanistan.

Samudra's lawyers immediately said they would appeal the sentence, claiming that their client did not deserve to be put to death. They said Samudra's confession had been forcibly obtained by police. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

No danger of spread of SARS

MANILA—A new SARS case discovered in Singapore does not pose a public health risk and travel restrictions are unnecessary, international health officials said Wednesday. "There is no need for panic," Shigeru Omi, the World Health Organization's director for the Western Pacific region, told a news conference, adding that there is confidence in the strength of Singapore's SARS surveillance system. "The single case is an isolated case," Balaji Sadasivan, Singapore's minister of state for health, said on the sidelines of a regional WHO conference. "There is no person-to-person transmission, so there is no outbreak." Hitoshi Oshitani, coordinator of WHO's regional SARS response team, said the world health body is not issuing any new travel advisories. AP

Archdiocese OKs $85-M settlement

BOSTON—The Boston Archdiocese agreed to pay $85 million to 552 people who claim sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests devastated their lives, giving victims long-awaited recognition of their pain and the US Church a chance to move forward from its worst scandal ever. Tuesday's deal is the largest publicly disclosed payout by a US diocese to settle molestation charges. "This piece of paper means one thing to me and many men I represent here today. From this day forward I am not an alleged victim of clergy abuse. I am recognized, I'm a survivor," said Gary Bergeron, who sued for molestation by the late Rev. Joseph Birmingham. Under the agreement, victims will receive awards ranging from $80,000 to $300,000. Award amounts will be decided by a mediator, based on the type of molestation, the duration of the abuse and the injury suffered. Parents who filed lawsuits claiming their children were abused will receive $20,000. AP

4 Afghan aid workers killed

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—Suspected Taliban rebels stopped a car carrying Afghans working for a Danish aid organization, tied them up and then shot four of them to death, the local governor and aid officials said Wednesday. The aid workers, who worked for the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, or DACAAR, were killed Monday afternoon on a dusty road in Mokur district of Ghazni province, southeastern Afghanistan, Gov. Haji Asadullah said. Gorm Pedersen, the DACAAR director in the capital, Kabul, said the team had finished work on a water supply project and was heading home when it was ambushed by nine men. AP

Teller, father of H-bomb, dies at 95

SAN FRANCISCO—Edward Teller, who played a key role in US defense and energy policies for more than half a century and was dubbed the "father of the H-bomb" for his enthusiastic pursuit of the powerful weapon, died Tuesday. He was 95. Teller had recently suffered a stroke and died at his home on the Stanford University campus, not far from the Hoover Institution where he served as a senior research fellow, said Susan Houghton, a spokesperson for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, which Teller helped found. Teller exerted a profound influence on America's defense and energy policies, championing the development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs, nuclear power and the Strategic Defense Initiative. AP

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Health, DENR execs form team to probe arsenic poisoning

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The local health and environment offices have formed a task force aimed at validating an earlier report about the unusually high level of arsenic contamination in villages near the Mt. Apo geothermal plant here.

Dr. Perlita Albano, city health officer, said the task force would be following the trail taken by the group led by Dr. Nelia Maramba, a toxicologist from the University of the Philippines, to find out if arsenic was indeed poisoning the residents of the villages.

Last month, Maramba's group said that at least five villages near the geothermal area, which is being operated by the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co., have high levels of arsenic based on test results of soil samples.

Also, Maramba said high levels of arsenic had also been found on at least seven children. One of them was a boy named Richard, whose blood contained 22.70 micrograms of arsenic.

Some people could get arsenic from nature but the standard level is only 0.3 micrograms.

Maramba said they were not pointing to the PNOC as the source of arsenic contamination in the villages but it could be one of the culprits.

She added that arsenic is naturally present in volcanic areas, such as the villages of Mt. Apo, but that there was an unusual concentration of the poisonous element particularly near the geothermal plant.

Albano said they would review and use all past scientific studies pertaining to the alleged high presence of arsenic on Mt. Apo.

Ferdinand Santos, PNOC environmental supervisor, said they would cooperate with the task force to find out where the contamination was coming from.

The PNOC, he said, would also help the task force through the provision of logistics and financial resources for analysis of samples. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Drug pushers, users crowd Calabarzon jails

LUCENA CITY—With President Macapagal-Arroyo's zealous drive against drug syndicates, jails in the Calabarzon region have been experiencing severe congestion from the sudden influx of arrested drug pushers and users, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology regional director disclosed yesterday.

Senior Supt. Jose Esmeralda III, BJMP-Calabarzon chief, said that as of August, the total number of prisoners in the Calabarzon area was 6,214.

Of this number, 2,693 prisoners have been facing drug-related criminal charges.

Quezon province tops the list with a total of 1,897 inmates. Batangas has the lowest at 678. Rizal, however, posted the highest number of inmates charged with drug-related offenses with 847; Cavite, 703; Laguna, 540; and Batangas, 306.

Esmeralda explained that Quezon posted only 297 drug-related prisoners because it does not have the statistics of inmates with drug charges in the records of the provincial jail.

Esmeralda said the sudden influx of arrested drug pushers contributed to the fast congestion of jails across the Calabarzon provinces.

He cited the jails in Antipolo City, Calamba City, Batangas City, Tanauan City and Talipan District jail in Quezon as the most crowded in the region.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Calabarzon police chief, said the rise of drug-related prisoners was the result of a series of successful intensive operations conducted by the combined efforts of several government agencies against drug syndicates that operate in Calabarzon region.

"With the continuous cooperation by the people down to the barangay level, we expect the arrest of more drug pushers and other criminals in the days to come. There's really a need for more jails," Caringal said.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency had revealed that there are about 3.4 million drug users in the Philippines, mostly using shabu.

The PDEA also said about 13 foreign and 175 local drug syndicates operate in the country.

Esmeralda said they now have an average of at least 5,000 prisoners in a month with P30 a-day-meal allowance.

"We're not yet in a financial position to grant the additional P5 increase because we don't have the money," he explained.

The jail official pointed to the clogging of cases in the judicial court level as one of the factors behind the congestion of jail facilities. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor suspended for conflict of interest

TACLOBAN CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas has ordered the three-month suspension without pay of Mayor Francisco Adalim of Taft, Eastern Samar for misconduct.

The anti-graft body said Adalim committed misconduct when he failed to divest his interest in a local cable television company, the Reliance CATV System, and for refusing to grant a mayor's permit to a new cable TV company, owned by complainant Rolando Lim.

The Ombudsman said Adalim violated Section 9 of Republic Act 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, which refers to conflict of interest.

"As a capitalist partner" of Reliance CATV System, "it is logical that he would be particularly interested in its success and would desire a good return of his investments. This will therefore, make him protective over Reliance CATV and consequently would affect the faithful performance of his official duty as the municipal mayor of Taft, Eastern Samar," the Ombudsman-Visayas said in a decision dated May 30, 2003.

Also suspended by the anti-graft court was lawyer Juliana Adalim-White, sister of the mayor, for one month without pay for simple misconduct. White served as a private counsel of the mayor even if she is a government lawyer.

Adalim, interviewed by long distance from his residence in Taft, about 148 km from Tacloban City, said he has yet to receive a copy of the Ombudsman decision but he said he intends to file a motion for reconsideration.

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

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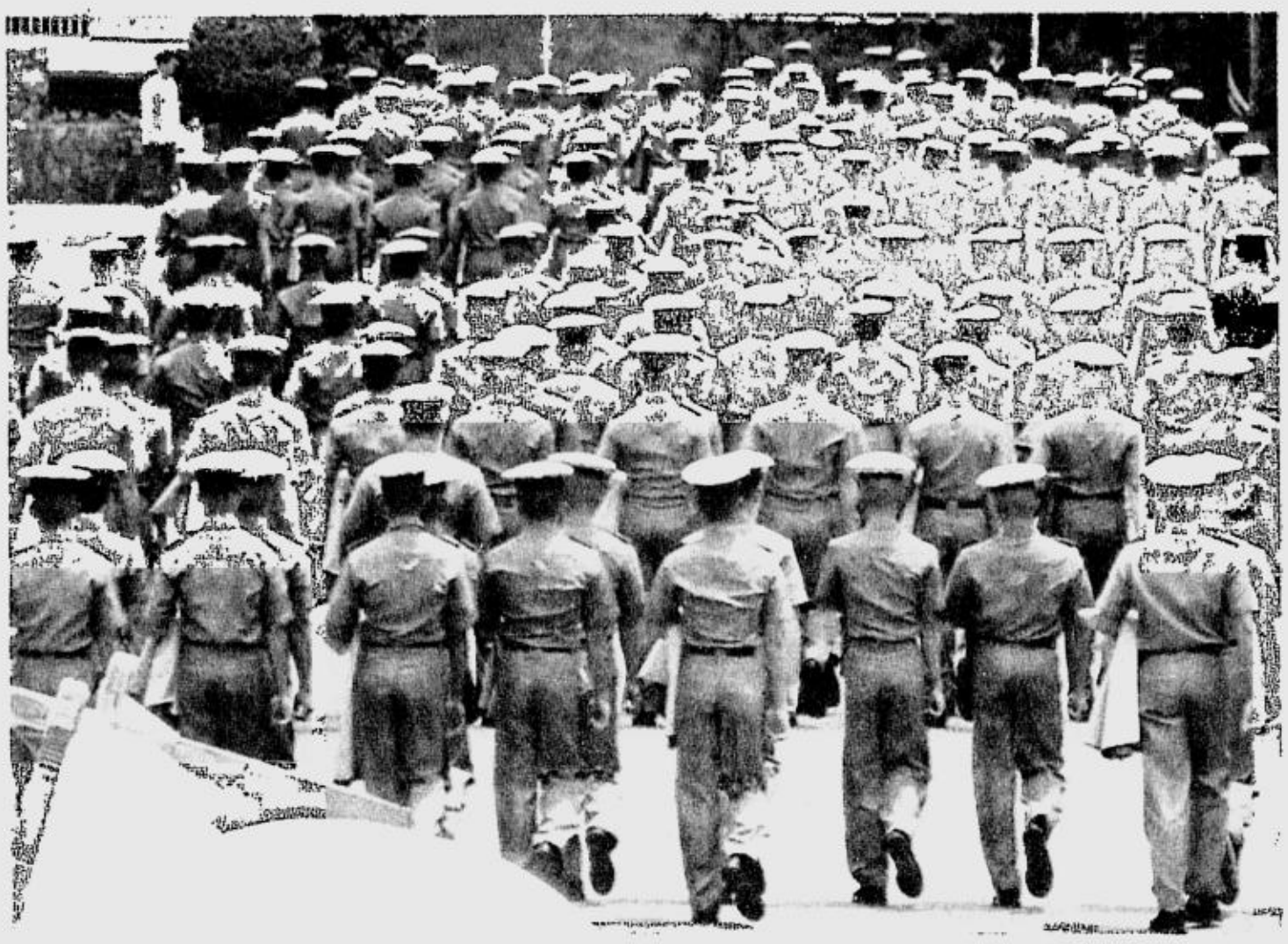


MARCHING ON TOOTS SOBERANO

Life goes on for PMA cadets, shown here marching on PMA grounds, despite a string of unfortunate incidents that claimed the lives of two cadets and resulted in injuries to two others in the last three months.

Probe sought of vegetable tariff mess

BAGUIO CITY—Benguet and Mt. Province farmers have evidence that new tariff privileges given to the vegetable industry by Malacañang have been violated by the Bureau of Plant Industry to benefit big importers.

The Benguet provincial board has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate Blo Umpar Adiong, BPI director, for allowing commercial importers of salad vegetables to pay tariff that is below the tax privilege Malacañang has granted to the vegetable industry.

"They have been ignoring this evidence for long, despite numerous petitions and letters advising them about these anomalies," said Benguet Board Member Johnny Uy, a commercial farmer.

The government inaction has compelled Cordillera farmers to join a Sept. 12 nationwide rally at the conclusion of the 5th World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

Uy said the farmers would protest the country's commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which had disabled the vegetable industry in its nine years of application.

Benguet and Mt. Province farmers led a series of protest marches against Ms Macapagal in 2001 when they lost P2.1 million in anticipated revenue after the BPI allowed Chinese, American and Australian vegetable imports to displace them from their traditional Metro Manila markets.

Despite a new memorandum from Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. that regulates the import clearances for vegetables, Benguet received proof that BPI managed to approve the importation recently of more than 100,000 metric tons of vegetables from the United States, Uy said.

"The latest report we transmitted to (Malacañang) involved an import clearance for Robina Farms to buy 110,000 metric tons of vegetables. But the clearance did not bear the official seal of (Lorenzo), so how is this to be considered legal?" Uy said.

Fernando Mangili, chair of the farmers' group Apit-Tako, said farmers want the Philippines to withdraw from GATT to save the vegetable industry.

"It is the farmers who suffer the ill-effects of GATT. Now is the time to make noise to let them know that we want to get out of WTO. Our survival is in question once we remain in it," Mangili said.

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said the WTO's negative impact was borne by how it was dominated by developed countries like the US and Japan.

In Central Luzon, some 200 marchers carrying rotten fish and vegetables and streamers condemning the ill-effects of globalization. *Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ID system imposed in town to stop entry of rebs

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—To prevent the entry of communist rebels into civilian communities, the local military, police and the local government have started imposing the ID system in this town.

Since Sept. 5, all males aged 15 and above from 10 barangays here were told to go to their respective barangay halls and have their pictures taken for the new ID system.

"It (ID system) is aimed at stopping the communist rebels from entering the communities. It is the barangay leaders themselves, the people themselves who asked us to impose the ID system in order to check the entry of people in their villages," Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy, police chief for Davao Oriental, said.

Cuy said the idea of imposing the ID system "did not come from the military or police, it came from the civilians who appealed to the rebels to spare them in their fight with government troops."

Lito Lao, leader of the farmers group Alyansa sa mga Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Dabaw, told the INQUIRER that the ID system was a project of Mayor Jerry Morales, the local police and the military led by 1Lt. Paulo Baylon, commanding officer of the Army's 30th Special Forces Company.

Lao said the ID system put their town under virtual martial law.

"It's the military, not the civilians, who rules this town. The town mayor and his constituents are voiceless and the local Catholic Church is unable to perform its task of teaching everyone to respect human rights," Lao said.

He also lambasted the local Catholic Church for supporting the ID system.

"It did not lift a finger to protest the abuses committed by the government troops against the innocent civilians. Worst, the local church has blamed the people for not supporting the government troops in fighting the NPA rebels," he said.

Lao said the ID system is now being imposed in Barangays Bugac, Palina, Kamanganngan, Matanog, Katihan, Cabuyao, Bisay, Maribuhok, Uyongan and Tigbawan in this town.

Cuy said he and Maj. Nixon Fortes, commanding officer of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, are also planning to impose the ID system in Cateel. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Korean shot dead

CEBU CITY—A security guard shot dead a Korean at dawn of Sept. 4 inside a restaurant in Barangay Maribagao, Lapulapu City, Mactan Island, Cebu. Kwang Gu Park, 27, of Seoul, South Korea, died of a gunshot wound in the left temple. Mark Villafuerte, 21 and a security guard of I&I Security Agency, surrendered to the police after shooting Park inside the Korean Restaurant and Snack Bar in Maribago. Police investigation showed that Park was with his fiancé Won Suk Lee and two other Koreans at the restaurant at about 2:40 a.m. SPO4 Geoffrey Bagulo, Lapulapu police homicide chief, said Park later had a heated argument with his companions. When Park held a bottle of beer, Bagulo said Villafuerte shot the Korean.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

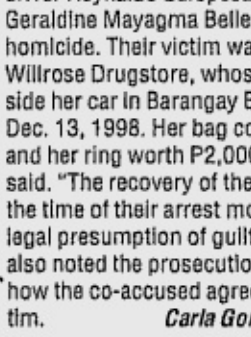
Death penalty affirmed

BACOLOD CITY—The Supreme Court has affirmed the death penalty imposed on two Negrenses who robbed and killed a drug store owner here. The High Court upheld the ruling of Judge Roberto Chiongson who found *trisikad* driver Reynaldo Salopesa Lozada and taxi driver Geraldine Mayagma Belleza guilty of robbery with homicide. Their victim was Rosita Sy, owner of Willrose Drugstore, whose body was found inside her car in Barangay Estefania, Bacolod on Dec. 13, 1998. Her bag containing at least P4,000 and her ring worth P2,000 were missing, the SC said. "The recovery of the loot from appellants at the time of their arrest moreover gives rise to the legal presumption of guilt," the SC ruled. The SC also noted the prosecution's detailed narration of how the co-accused agreed to rob and kill the victim. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Taiwanese trader held

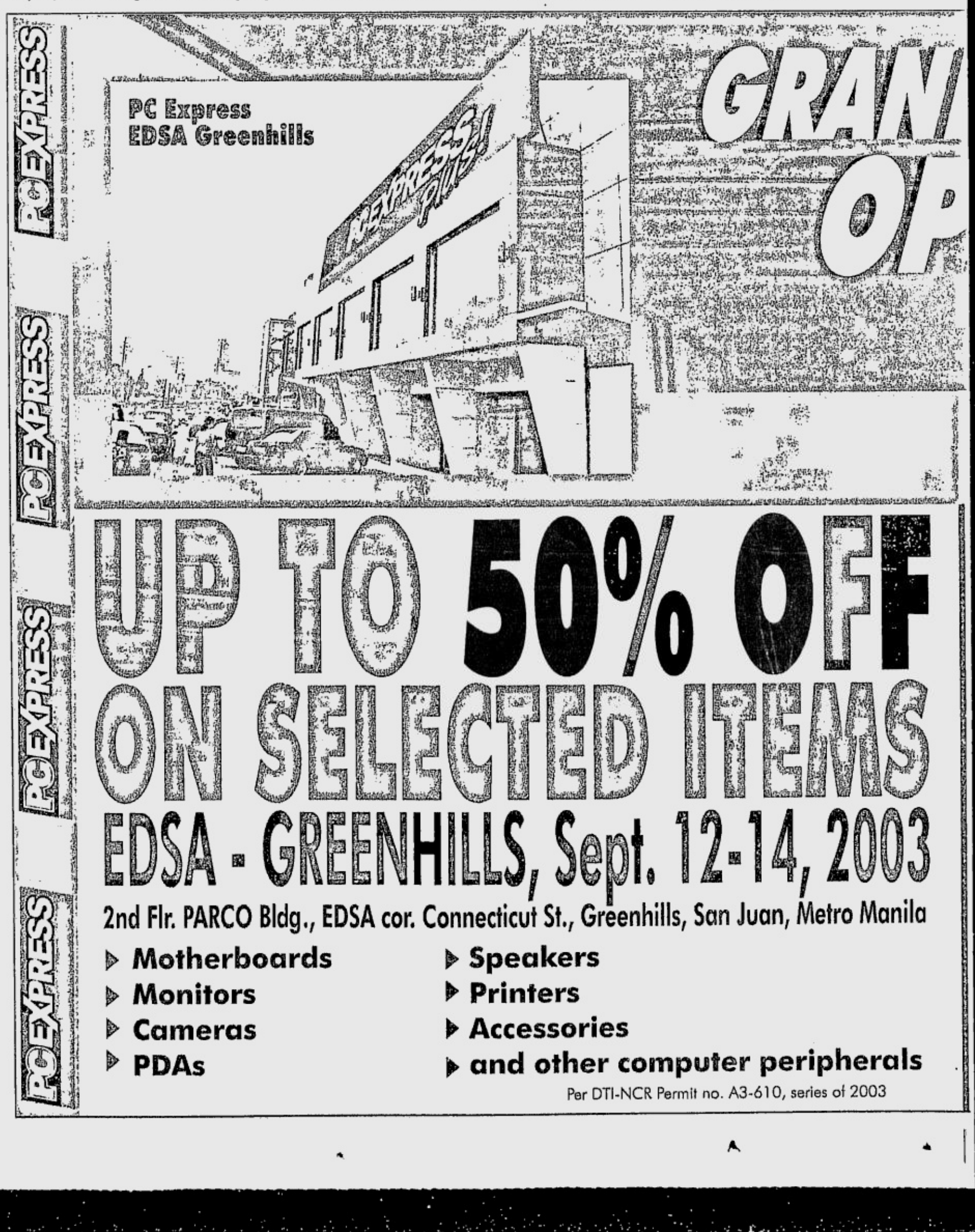
MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Police arrested a Taiwanese businessman and his seven workers after a hijacked shipment of batteries worth P3 million was found in his warehouse in Barangay Saluysoy on Aug. 29. Senior Supt. Felizardo Seraplo Jr., Bulacan police director, identified the businessman as Don Lim, 28. Lim manages a hardware and lumber store in this town. In Pampanga, truck driver Roberto Traya and his helper Antonio Nuñez sought the help of the Guagua police after their truck carrying some P500,000 worth of biscuits was hijacked by armed men in Metro Manila on Aug. 28. The victims said the suspects dumped them in Guagua town. *Carmela Reyes and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 486 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.



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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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War refugees strive to rebuild lives

By Clarice Colting
Los Baños, Laguna

MORE than two months since they moved out of the Kanlungan Refugee Center at the Philippine Christian University in Dasmariñas, Cavite because of what they perceived as security problems, Mangyan, Dumagat and other peasant families still have no sufficient means of livelihood to sustain their needs.

The families left their communities in Mindoro and other provinces in Southern Tagalog almost two years ago amid intense military operations. Today, they are burdened by the same fear that swept them when they fled from their ancestral land.

They tried to earn by weaving and making bead accessories, but the efforts were not enough. Relying largely on donations and solicitations through the human rights group Tanggol Karapatan, they are now trying to rebuild their lives in different communities in the region.

Tanggol Karapatan provides shelter to the refugees and spearheads campaigns against the displacement of indigenous peoples and farmers.

The first batch of refugees, comprising two Mangyan families, left the *daga kaumpatan* (ancestral land) in Mansalay town in Oriental Mindoro in September 2001. They moved out of the province during the following month and were provided temporary shelter by Tanggol Karapatan.

In succeeding months, the exodus of refugees continued at an alarming rate. Dumagat families from Quezon and other farming families from Rizal joined the Mangyan families in safe havens in Manila and Cavite.

On May 31, the refugees left Kanlungan because of alleged tight militant surveillance that, they said, they experienced days after the bodies of human rights leader Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy were found in Bansud, Oriental Mindoro the previous month.

REFUGEES leave the Kanlungan Refugee Center in Cavite amid calls for justice.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG EXPOSURE

Impoverished

In their new communities, the refugees tried to go back to planting crops, but they had no land to till. Some of them have been allowed by owners of farm lots to plant, but the fruits of their labor barely meet their daily food needs.

Volunteers of Tanggol Karapatan who visited the first group of relocated families said most of them had grown thinner.

After staying there for only a month, the five families, including 15 children, had already borrowed 35 kg of rice.

The children were able to continue their studies, but not those in high school. Through Tanggol Karapatan's solicitation campaign, the families were able to pay for the children's tuition.

"The children were absent from school for two weeks because we had no money for their fare ... We ran out of rice and food," Nanay Rosa said. She requested that her real name be withheld for security reasons.

Some of the older children began looking for jobs, such as helpers in retail stores.

In another relocation site, five other families, including 26 children, were suffering the same fate. They have no farm land and could hardly provide for their basic needs.

The tribal people also found it difficult for them to adopt to their new environment because their culture differed with that of the lowlanders.

Aynong Ingay, who left Mindoro with his pregnant wife and seven children in October 2001, said they tried weaving *buri* mats and gathering rattan. "It is really so inadequate. We already have a debt of 23 kilos of NFA (National Food Authority or government-issued) rice," he pointed out.

Not the least of their problems is their fear for their lives and safety.

According to Aynong, government soldiers operating in the area already know of their presence in the community. In one instance, they had to stop work, he said. Not one of them went to the mountains to make *kaingin* or gather wood, he added.

The refugees could not help crying as they shared their problems. "It is only here that I experienced not eating for two days just so I could feed my children," Nanay Sita [not her real name] said.

Military operation

Around 30 families [150 persons] had found themselves staying in different churches and schools in Manila for more than four months before they were able to build temporary homes on the PCU campus.

The refugee centers in Manila and Cavite were occupied by around 90 families, most of them children aged not more than 14 years old. Three babies were born there.

Donna Quidayan, spokesperson of Tanggol Karapatan, said many of the children got sick and were hospitalized while in Manila due to the heat, a drastic change in weather in the rural area where they came from.

They also suffered psychosocial and emotional trauma, she said.

The situation prompted Tanggol Karapatan to build the refugee center at the PCU.

The first evacuees, including Ingay's family, left their homes in Mansalay because of alleged military harassment.

Maj. Jose Broso, public information officer of the Army's Southern Luzon Unified Command and chief of the Southern Luzon Civil Relations Group, however, said that so far they had not received any reports of human rights violations committed by the military against indigenous peoples in Southern Luzon.

He insisted that the charges being thrown at the military were "mere propaganda."

"There is no war zone in Southern Tagalog, that's why people can move freely. If there are incidents (of forced evacuation), perhaps these are only temporary," Broso said. For instance, in Rizal, the residents were asked to leave temporarily because of the reported threat of an armed encounter, he said.

"So far in the Solcom, there is no request for a temporary movement of residents in Mindoro," he explained.

"We have existing rules and regulations, aside from the Constitution and the Revised Penal Code, and the commanders are aware of these. In fairness to the commanders, they [alleged victims] should file charges," Broso said in an interview on Aug. 31.

The officer said the military did not tolerate violations of human rights as he reiterated that the Army's primary purpose was to protect the people. He said the military strictly adhered to government laws.

Campaign

Although the refugees are already in separate communities, the concept of a Kanlungan Refugee Center still exists as a sanctuary for the indigenous people, farmers, women and children who are affected by military operations, Quidayan said.

To meet the needs of the evacuees, Tanggol Karapatan is proposing a livelihood program to various agencies so that they can have land to till, implements and seeds for farming.

But Quidayan said their main effort was focused on a pullout of military troops from the refugees' communities. She said the evacuation of indigenous peoples and peasants would not stop so long as the military remained in their areas.

On July 21, a Mangyan family in Occidental Mindoro was massacred when members of the 16th Infantry Battalion allegedly opened fire on the victims' house.

Killed were Roger Blanco, his pregnant wife Oliva, and their young children, Kevin and Dexter.

"If these human rights violations and killings continue, then more evacuations are expected to take place," Quidayan said.

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OPINION

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Insecurity

EDITORIAL

TWO years after the Sept. 11 terrorist bombings of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, inaugurating a borderless form of warfare in the 21st century, most Americans think they are less secure from further attacks than they were in 2001.

Opinion polls taken on the eve of the anniversary of the bombings show that 64 percent of Americans believed that the US military presence in Iraq increased the likelihood of terrorism while 77 percent said that widespread negative feelings toward the United States in the Islamic world had enhanced terrorist recruiting.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States has invaded and occupied two countries—Afghanistan and Iraq—as it pursued its international war against terrorism. In Afghanistan, the rationale was that it served as the sanctuary of Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida terrorist network that carried out the attacks in the United States. In the case of Iraq, the United States justified the war with the claim that Iraq had an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction that threatened American lives and that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was the sponsor of terrorism. The two invasions, however, failed to achieve their objectives.

Bin Laden has survived the onslaught of US military technology in his mountain hideouts in Afghanistan. The invasion of Iraq last March toppled Saddam's regime swiftly, but he has eluded arrest despite a widespread manhunt, which has claimed the lives of his two sons and led to the capture a number of key officials.

Despite the formal declaration of US President George W. Bush last May that major military operations in Iraq had ended, American and British occupation forces have been the object of guerrilla-style attacks. Hardly a day passes when a car bomb doesn't explode or a sniper attack on the occupation forces isn't launched. Saddam remains at large, and his weapons of mass destruction have not been found.

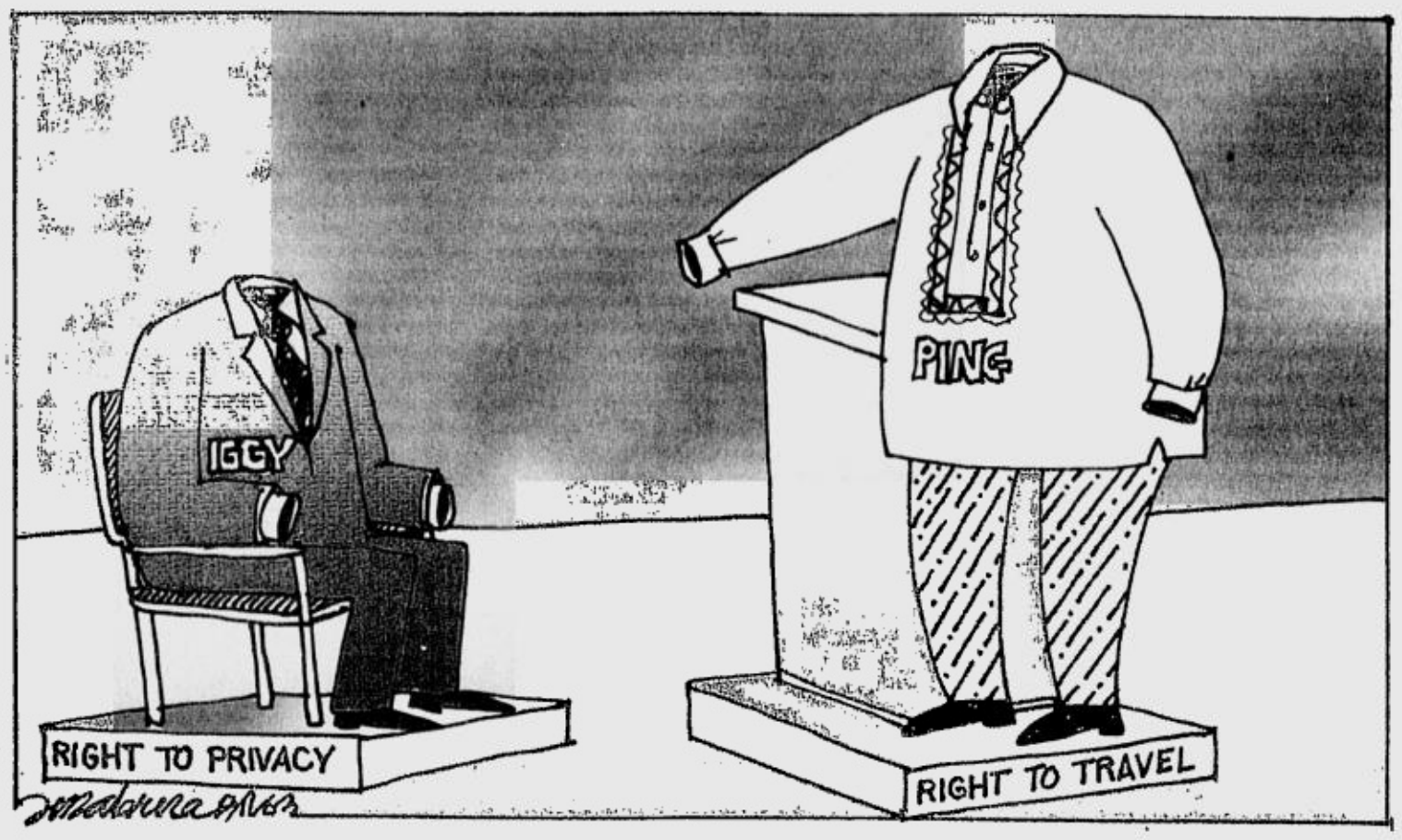
The United States had justified the invasion by claiming that Saddam did not only possess WMDs but also had links with Bin Laden's terrorist organization, a connection that has never been established. The war was waged on false pretenses, and public opinion has shifted away from Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's articulate interlocutor of the war policy on Iraq, as attacks on Anglo-American forces in occupied Iraq have intensified. Islamic militants have also infiltrated Iraq to carry out terrorist bombings. Only last March, the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad was bombed despite the large presence of allied forces. Bush noted the shift, saying, "We are fighting that enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan today, so that we do not meet him again in our own streets, in our own cities."

This reasoning does not reassure the American public. The military conquest of Afghanistan and Iraq has not only failed to root out the cause of terrorist attacks but also failed to install democracy in these two countries. The costs of war and occupation have prompted Bush to ask Congress for $87 billion in emergency spending for military operations and rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan. "We will do what is necessary, we will spend what is necessary, to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror, to promote freedom and to make our own nation more secure," Bush promised.

This speech foreshadows an open-ended military presence in Iraq which is turning into a seemingly bottomless hole devouring US economic resources. Nearly half of the US Army is deployed in Iraq and the Pentagon plans to dispatch more troops to reinforce the occupation forces.

No wonder, the polls reflect skepticism on the part of the American public over the wisdom of the invasion as the strategy for stamping out terrorism. The poll results are a slap to Bush's policy of going to war unilaterally, disregarding the restraints urged by two of its major European allies, France and Germany. The polls show that 81 percent thought a key lesson of Sept. 11 was that the US needed to work more closely with other countries to fight terrorism.

With the costs mounting, Bush has made a volte-face and is now amenable to seeking multinational support to share the expenses and to an expanded UN role in rebuilding post-war Iraq. Bush is seeing a significant erosion of public support for the war. The change in the public mood can damage his chances of reelection.



Guns in the barangays will reduce population

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has allowed barangay officials to possess and carry guns. *Paurong na naman ito*. Three more steps backward. I'm sure gunless society guru Nandy Pacheco is having a heart attack. Instead of reducing the number of guns in the hands of civilians, the government is increasing it.

The justification of the PNP, no doubt, is to fight criminality. This is a clear admission by the police that it cannot protect the people, a confession that policemen are not earning the money the taxpayers are paying them. Indirectly, it is also an admission that our population is increasing too fast and too much, and that we have to do something to curb the population explosion. And the surest way to do that is to put many guns in the hands of many persons.

From now on, expect elections to be more violent and deadly. For some barangay officials are police characters and *kanto* boys trying to get respectability and authority by being elected to barangay positions. Some of them don't have regular jobs; that is why they have all the time to have drinking sprees with other jobless persons at street corners to woo their votes. They earn from the taxpayers and supplement it with the *tong* they collect from squatters and drivers.

With their guns, they would be able to do more of the same, besides engaging in a little holdup here and there. Now barangays, especially those with many squatters, will be jumping, with plenty of fireworks every night. Not only the gun dealers and undertakers will be happy, but also the gambling lords. Wakes will be frequent in many barangays, and gambling, such as *sakla* and *monte*, will be allowed there.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said barangay officials will have to buy their own guns, which means they will have to increase their fund-raising activities. I am sure more barangays will pass resolutions authorizing the use of their IRAs (internal revenue allotments) to buy guns (many barangays have yearly IRAs of P3 million each). Which means that instead of using the income taxes paid by the citizens for projects for their welfare, they would be spent for guns that may kill them.

I know what's on the minds of police officials. Instead of the police maintaining peace and order, it is going to pass the buck to barangay officials.

It would be perhaps all right if all barangay officials were upright citizens. But we know from experience that some of them are not.

Putting guns in their hands will only make our barangays like Wild West towns.

* * *

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said Filipinos should move to help perk up our sluggish economy. Isn't that what the Arroyos, the Tohs and the Perezes are all doing, saving as much money as they can for the future? But look where it got them for trying to perk up the sluggish economy.

But for those who are not as lucky and resourceful as the people mentioned above, telling them to save more is like rubbing salt into an already painful wound. Most Filipinos have nothing to save. Many of them don't even have enough for the day's needs.

Besides, the idea of savings used to be that of letting your money grow in the banks. Not anymore. Interest rates on savings deposits are so low while the inflation rate is so high that the longer you keep your money in the bank, the more you lose. You work and save to buy an appliance or a house for example, but by the time you get your savings back, prices are so high that you are farther away from your goal than when you began saving.

It is like the insurance policies. You pay and you pay the premiums through many years, but when the policy matures and you get the insurance proceeds, you find out that you can buy less with them than when you started paying.

Who benefits from your saving deposits? The banks and the government—which collect withholding taxes on the interest earnings—but not you.

Besides, there are so many bank robberies and banks going bankrupt and closing down that people are wary of putting their money in the banks. So they keep them (if they have any to spare) in the house, in coconut shell and bamboo *alkansiyas*, in *aparadors* and under mattresses, in hollow house posts or in cans buried under the house. But in case of fire, the savings are burned too—if burglars and robbers don't get to them first.

So instead of saving their money, people spend it now while it's still any good. Enjoy now, tomorrow may be too late. You never know what the future holds. A coup may finally succeed; the bottom may drop out of the peso; the goods you want to buy may be beyond your reach by the time you think you have saved enough; you may not live long enough, or you may be too old to enjoy your savings. So people spend their money as fast as they can in a race with inflation. What Secretary Neri said is true: countries with low savings rates have little capital to invest in business and industry. So the economies are all sluggish; there are few jobs, and the standard of living is low. The Philippines has the lowest savings rate in the world, so all the capital we need we get from abroad. Japan has the highest savings rate in Asia, if not in the world. So it is no wonder that they have a robust economy, is one of the most developed countries in the world, and its citizens have one of the highest per capita incomes and standards of living.

Secretary Neri is right. We have to save more. But just talking about it and doing something about it are two different things. Talk is cheap, and doing is difficult.

Is Neri doing something about it besides talk?

Courts

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know, but I couldn't bring myself to get angry with Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo last Monday. My heart went out to him. There he was valiantly trying to protect Kuya Mike and Ate Glo while facing a firing squad in the form of hostile senators, many of whom belonged to Erap's camp—probably still do—and relished the situation of tables being turned. All he could do in the face of sharp questions was invoke his "right to privacy." What else could he do?

I was angry instead with Jose Miguel Arroyo. The people who have been sending me text messages about the First Gentleman's shabby treatment of his brother are right. I don't think it's just our culture, though we tend to practice it to a sublime degree, where the older brother looks out for the younger one, even taking the rap for him if necessary. It happens even in more developed, or cynical, societies where fraternal bonds do not make such impositions. So it's probably an instinctive thing.

Here we have an older brother who has fed his younger brother to the wolves. At least Joseph's brothers threw him to the well and left him to die out of a desire to court their father's favor. This one is just to save skin.

Well, who was it who said Europe's nobility was characterized mainly by the lack of it? It's the same thing here. The First Gentleman is characterized mainly by being neither gentle nor a man.

While at this, I don't know how GMA expects to win a second term—she will run, no doubt about it—when she and her family seem determined to break every conceivable cultural value in this country. Her running, or at least active campaigning, already flies in the face of the time-honored value of *palabra de honor*, or word of honor. Or since that term is no longer remembered, or used, by the current generation, simply sticking to one's word. The Tagalog phrase catches it best—*may isang salita*. It does not translate well literally in English—"having one word"—but you get the drift of it.

The President can't stick to her word and the First Gentleman will have his younger brother take the rap for him: Those things carry cultural consequences, if not legal ones.

All this bears on the hearing last Monday.

On the face of it, the law is on the side of Iggy Arroyo and the people he is trying to protect. Unlike an impeachment trial, a Senate inquiry does not turn the Senate into a court. An impeachment trial transforms senators into judges, and it is presided over by the Chief Justice, who listens to the arguments of prosecution and counsel. A Senate hearing does nothing of the kind. A Senate hearing may not even summon people, or compel them to appear, it may only invite them to shed light on certain things in aid of legislation. Iggy Arroyo has a right to say that he has not been charged, he may not be forced to yield information if he does not care to.

And although Aquilino Pimentel may be right that the Constitution does not contain any provision granting guests of Senate hearings the "right to privacy," I am sure a clever lawyer will find a similar provision if he looks hard enough. As Fe Macalinao, the counsel of Union Bank, pointed out in a long peroration, the senators themselves were responsible for the laws that uphold bank secrecy or the banks' undying loyalty to their clients. A court of law may override that but not so a Senate inquiry.

Iggy Arroyo and Fe Macalinao are right: A Senate hearing is not a court of law. But they forget that for that very reason, a case there is not judged by a judge, nor judged solely by its legal merits. It is judged by the public, and judged solely by its reasonability. We presume that people who appear in Senate hearings do so to shed light on what is dark, not to make what is dark darker. A refusal to answer questions may stand well by the law, but it will not stand well by public opinion. And that is ultimately what a Senate hearing is, particularly one that is televised, as this one is. It is a court too, a court of public opinion. It is not judged only by the senators, it is judged by the people themselves.

Iggy Arroyo's reticence brands him guilty in that court. It is not helped by the fact that the things he did talk about only made him slip deeper into the bog. He admitted, for example, that he opened the Jose Pidal account in 2001 for security reasons. Now, surely it could not have escaped the attention of a presidential brother-in-law that his sister-in-law came to power only a few months earlier precisely because the person she replaced did exactly the same thing, which was deemed a crime?

At the very least, if true, I don't know why his wife shouldn't sue the pants off him for trying to withhold conjugal property from her. Can you imagine if opening accounts using aliases were allowed in this country? At the very least, husbands who keep mistresses would have a field day diverting funds to the extra-conjugal kitty. Secrecy in banking would only be used in aid of philandering!

There is no law that may compel Iggy Ignacio to divulge information about the Jose Pidal account. Just as there is no law that may compel Mike Arroyo not to hide behind—well, the phrase he used against Lacson, doubtless in reference to his manhood, or lack thereof, was "skirt of parliamentary immunity"—the mantle of fraternal generosity, or capacity for self-immolation. Just as there is no law that may prevent GMA from running again.

You will not find them in the statute books anyway. But you will find them in the tradition and culture of the land. You will find them in the instincts of men and beasts. You will find them in the redoubt of the human heart.

Transgressions there carry even worse punishments.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Time factors into House and Senate deliberations

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE is a saying that "Time heals all wounds," and in the House time was on the side of those legislators who sought to avoid exacerbating political wounds in one major issue facing the chamber: the impeachment complaint filed by ousted President Estrada against the Chief Justice and seven other Supreme Court justices. Contrary to the expectation of heated debates, yesterday's first hearing of the justice committee on the impeachment issue was marked by sobriety and restraint; and judging from the way the voting went, the House members were apparently conscious of not stoking political tensions further.

A vote of 34 out of the 66 committee members is needed to decide whether the impeachment complaint is sufficient as to form; but yesterday there were only 13 in favor of sufficiency in form, 3 against and 2 abstaining. In the three-week recess of Congress that begins tomorrow up to Oct. 6, the vote of the other committee members would be secured and if there are 34 votes for sufficiency in form, then it goes to the second issue, whether the complaint is sufficient as to substance. These two issues have to be resolved with 34 votes each within 20 session days before the complaint can be reported in plenary session, where a one-third vote of the entire House is needed to send it to the Senate for trial. But with the three-week recess *lalamig na ang* impeachment issue.

Speaker Jose de Venecia could hardly restrain his satisfaction with the way the initial proceeding went and he paid tribute especially to the able leadership of justice chair Marcelino Libanan and Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina's studiousness and industry.

* * *

Time also seems to be against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Senate, as the chamber goes into a three-week recess tomorrow with tremendous pressure from various quarters to scrap the hearings on his allegations that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo laundered campaign funds in secret bank accounts. At this point many of the 12 banks which Lacson alleged to contain either Arroyo accounts or joint accounts with members of the Toh family, have come out with their denials of existing accounts. These include Bank of the Philippine Islands and its subsidiary, BPI Family Bank; Banco Filipino, which said there are no Toh accounts; Banco de Oro and Union Bank. These denials constitute a rebuff to Lacson's shotgun approach which seems long on malice but short on evidence.

* * *

In addition, the banks refused to divulge even the details surrounding Pidal accounts opened in the past, invoking the Bank Secrecy Law that Congress itself passed. Then too, Ignacio Arroyo, who claims to be Jose Pidal, has invoked his "right to privacy" as a private citizen and said he'd rather go to jail if cited for contempt, than allow the senators "in an adversarial setting, to coerce him to bare his private life for all to see and feast on." Ignacio stressed that he wants conclusive proof to be presented first that the Pidal accounts received public funds before those can become "the subject of public interest." He stressed that "no public funds ever entered these accounts." The problem, of course, is that as Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, a former RTC judge in Davao, pointed out, the proper thing to do would have been for accuser Lacson to prove his case first, before the witnesses are called to testify. Instead it became a case of putting the cart before the horse or deep-sea fishing.

* * *

Should Ignacio challenge before the Supreme Court a contempt charge slapped on him by the Senate, some legal luminaries like Fr. Joaquin Bernas opine that the high court might well uphold him. Bernas noted that the SC has invoked "right to privacy" no less than 100 times in cases since 1980. Weighing in heavily, too, for closing the hearings is the fact that Lacson abandoned them to go to the US in search of evidence.

It seems that Lacson's camp is now realizing that the hearings cannot be sustained on mere allegation, and that the proper venue is the court where evidence has to be solid. His camp now appears to be preparing to discredit the whole hearing by looking for a *casus belli*, much like the Senate tribunal's refusal to open the second envelope in January 2001. I suspect that the first salvo was fired the other evening when Lacson's spokesperson, Lito Banayo, criticized blue ribbon chair Joker Arroyo for treating Ignacio Arroyo with "kid gloves." Frankly, I think Joker has been quite fair and gave the adversarial senators all the chances to grill the Arroyo brothers. I think the public would judge him fair, but the problem seems to be that the Lacson camp wants him to, as he put it, jump every time the opposition accuser barks.

* * *

The two power-point presentations of Lacson were quite impressive as they showed very sophisticated techniques more associated with the corporate world. Never, to my mind, have such techniques been used in the Senate halls. The downside, however, was that he was expected to be as powerful in his interpellation in the first hearing, but he came out quite weak and ineffectual—a far cry from his power-point exposés.

The presentations created an impact because they were made by ad experts, headed by veteran adman Greg Garcia, who retired as president of the Leo Burnett-Hemisphere advertising agency but remains part-owner. The question is, how is its foreign partner taking the idea that the agency has become embroiled in a political project involving some very personal attacks on the First Gentleman and private individuals, that have become the subject of complaints before the Senate ethics committee, and numerous denials from banks? It could be argued that Garcia did it for Lacson on his own, but it must have involved the agency's equipment and resources. Was it sound corporate policy?

School for survivors

YOUNG BLOOD

Clerissa M. Carritero

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THINGS will never be the same again. Gone are the days when I can buy spaghetti for P5, pull off tricks without paying for them, run inside the class while the teacher is writing on the board and put on an innocent look whenever I do some naughty things.

Now that I am 23, I can only look back at the happiest times of my life, meaning almost all the things I experienced during my high-school years. Ever since I graduated, I have missed the things that I usually dreaded during those years. Gone are the homework and the assignments and the teachers from hell. But as soon as I start reminiscing, I quickly realize that I regret not being a high school student anymore.

I transferred to a public high school for my second year studies after getting all of my education up to that time from a private academy owned by a religious congregation. I knew I was in for a lot of discomfort because I was accustomed to luxuries and easy living. But I was wrong.

On my first day in my new school, my new skirt which had been carefully pressed was drenched in brown, sticky mud. My new shoes grew two inches higher as mud accumulated on their heels. Inside our classroom, I had to sit down on the floor because there were not enough chairs for all the students in the class. After that, I made it a point to be in school early so that I would have a better chance of winning the daily Trip to Jerusalem that all 80 of us in our class had to play to grab one of the few seats available.

During that year, I almost developed an allergy to peanuts. Our teachers were always selling something during classes, ranging from peanuts to yellow pad paper with our names stamped on them and just about anything and everything that would make students willingly part with their already meager allowances.

It was there that I learned to eat *pansit* or spaghetti "*pahabhab*." The teachers didn't provide spoons or forks, so we had to eat the food straight from their clear plastic containers.

When we didn't have money to buy snacks, the teachers would give them to us on credit, with the understanding that we would pay the following day.

One year later, the members of our batch were dubbed as "addicts" because all of us, with very few exceptions, were skinny.

We were assigned the rooms atop the highest hill on campus. To get to our classrooms, we had to climb for about 10 minutes. Then we had to go down for the flag ceremony and walk uphill again for our classes.

If you're lucky, the teachers would ask you to run errands two or three times a day. That meant walking up and down for approximately an hour as a compulsory exercise.

To this day, I still remember the "cursed" chair in our classroom when we were in fourth year. On the first day of classes, we were of course all excited to start a new school year. While we were exchanging stories about how we spent our vacation, a horrible smell suddenly filled the classroom. Apparently, a classmate was so excited to get back to school that she forgot her daily routine and had to use the chair because of an emergency.

When our teacher came in, she asked everyone to "face the front" like kindergartens while our poor classmate went out to wash herself and change her clothes. From that day forward, no one dared to sit on the cursed chair again.

In our school, wearing shoes was not a daily habit. During rainy days, we would often see a student or sometimes a teacher skidding and falling because the mud was so slippery. During dry seasons, our shoes were covered with dust by the time we reached our classroom. We could not wear shoes inside our classroom lest we make the shiny floors dirty. So we either walked barefoot, put plastic bags over our socks or just walk in our socks and let them get dirty.

Studying in a public school can be hard, what with the overcrowded classrooms, the small, airless rooms and the muddy grounds. A student really has to compete with his classmates every day and in every way for all of his high school life.

But life there can be fun, too. You do not need much because everybody else doesn't have much. You can go through high school with just the bare necessities. You can finish four years of schooling with only one set of uniform because no one cares if it's old or full of holes and stitches. Shoes are of little use. You don't feel ashamed even if you come to school with only P5 in your pocket. All you need is to be strong enough to survive all the hardships that come your way. And that is the greatest thing I learned in that school: to survive.

Going to a public school made me the strong person that I am today. I learned to see the good in ugly things and to laugh even at the most challenging moments. I have grown to love the little things and see beauty in simple things.

What I am today is the product of the many experiences I had in high school. When everyone is losing hope, I keep a positive outlook. Whenever I fall, I quickly pick myself up. I fight my own battles. I look at life with a clear perspective. And overcome the hurdles thrown in my path.

Had I stayed in the private institution where I studied in my younger years, I would have grown accustomed to its soft and luxurious surroundings and I would have turned into a weakling or a crybaby.

I thank God for leading me out of there and pointing me in the right direction. Now I am confident that when a strong storm blows my way, I will survive and remain on my feet.

Clerissa M. Carritero, 23, is a correspondent for a community newspaper in Rizal.

Compassion and ambiguity

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE WINNING couple in the latest "Amazing Race" were Reichen and Chip, two men who were described as "married" to each other, which fact astounded many casual (as opposed to other "AR" fanatics like me and my children) viewers because the two seemed the very embodiment of masculinity.

Both Reichen and Chip were athletic in build, and at least one of them had been a Marine. They were also gay, and compared to the other heterosexual couples in the Race, including a long-married pair of seniors, an engaged couple and a couple who'd been dating for 12 years, they seemed most affectionate and polite toward each other. Where other couples, including life-long friends, would end up sniping and arguing with each other with every little error or wrong decision, Reichen and Chip cheered each other on, readily apologized when something went wrong (as when Reichen ran over Chip's foot), and were most affectionate to each other.

Gossip has it that the winning pair is now separated, though in a tele-conference interview, they told journalists that they were still "working things out." I don't know if the million dollars they won helped, or helped ruin, the relationship. But hey, these things happen even to the best of couples!

But if there's anything the new poster boys of long-term gay relationships have proven, it's that a couple doesn't have to belong to opposite sexes to get along or create a stable relationship.

Strangely, or maybe fortuitously, Reichen and Chip's victory took place about the same time that the Vatican, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a document urging governments around the world to reject legal recognition of same-sex unions, describing it as "legislation of evil."

* * *

IN AN ARTICLE published in the Aug. 10 issue of The Tablet, a Catholic weekly from London, Stephen Pope, an associate professor in the theology department of Boston College, wrote a critique of this document that, while acknowledging its strengths, notes that it "suffers from ambiguities which undermine the effectiveness of its arguments."

Pope favors the document's assertion that "gays and lesbians are worthy of respect, compassion and justice, and should in no way be the objects of unjust discrimination." But he also questions the way it treats "complex issues of sexual identity," classifying gays and lesbians, not to mention bisexuals and transgendered persons, under "the very broad rubric of 'homosexuality'" which Pope says is an "oversimplification which gives an air of excessive abstractness to the document."

While mental health professionals have long de-classified homosexuality as a mental illness or dysfunction, the Catholic Church, as demonstrated in this document, still considers it a "disorder." Says Pope: "(while affirming) the worth of the 'homosexual person,' (the document) describes as 'disordered' any same-sex orientation. Yet the fact is that describing a human being as 'intrinsically disordered' is inherently stigmatizing and at least tacitly, if not overtly, supportive of the unjust discrimination that the Church has repeatedly condemned."

"The document argues not only that gay and lesbian sex is self-indulgent—a description that could equally be applied to heterosexual sex—but also to imply that homosexuals are internally directed to a form of sexual love that will ALWAYS be effectively sterile and to relationships that are irredeemably dysfunctional."

* * *

POPE likewise regrets that the document "does not distinguish, at least not carefully enough, between same-sex marriage and same-sex civil unions." Laws concerning civil unions, says Pope, involve justice when they protect fairness in taxes, employment-related benefits for gay couples such as dental and health insurance, shared home mortgages and visitation rights to see a hospitalized partner. Argues Pope: "A man whose partner of 20 years becomes incapacitated for medical reasons ought to be able to make important medical and financial decisions the same way that married heterosexuals are empowered to do so by current law. A woman who wants to visit her dying partner in the last moments of her life ought to be able to do so."

The CDC document also insists that "the best interests of the child, as the weaker and more vulnerable party, are to be the paramount consideration in every case." But Pope points out that "surely Catholic politicians ought to support laws that promote the rights of children of same-sex parents, no matter how much it condemns the 'homosexual union' itself? Sincere there are now many children being reared by same-sex adults, these rights are no small matter. They involve obtaining a child's medical care, dental care, inheritance rights, education and hospital visitation rights. The Church's insistence that the State should not support these rights is unedifying."

* * *

I'LL discuss more of Pope's article in tomorrow's column, but for now, it must be noted that the same issue of The Tablet contains a brief article on the Philippine bishops' "delight with the Vatican document" and their admonition to Congress "not to legitimize that which is immoral."

Current legislative initiatives on gay rights, if I recall right, seek not so much to legalize gay "marriages" as to recognize what's called "domestic partnerships." In fact, the draft bill focuses on "non-discrimination" against gays and lesbians, with the legal recognition of the rights of same-sex partners constituting only a part of bill. Indeed, the bill only seeks to grant the same rights, including entitlement to benefits and privileges, especially the right to visit sick partners, that most heterosexual partners take for granted, even if they aren't married to each other.

Priest's rape victim speaks (1)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ALL she wanted was for the church authorities to "do something." Instead, the Catholic priest who drugged, raped and pushed her to have an abortion, was treated with kid gloves. He continues to offer the Holy Eucharist daily, work for justice and peace and the ecumenical movement, as if nothing happened.

His bishop knew the victim personally, he had listened to her and believed her. The bishop had arranged a meeting between the abuser and the victim, hoping to settle the matter. But several years have passed and nothing, by way of censure or disciplinary action, has been done. The priest continues to enjoy his special stature in the Mindanao church.

The victim, a known church worker, continues to grieve and rage. Her body and spirit had undergone several major mutilations. She was drugged and raped. She suffered the agony of a crude abortion that snuffed out the life in her womb. She had been dismissed with contempt by those from whom she expected healing and compassion.

And so she turned to quiet women of courage who believed in her and in the justice of God.

It happened in 1998. Minda (not her real name), in her early 40s, was working with an ecumenical group composed of people from different faiths. Minda belonged to the Protestant sector. She was also working in an academic institution where she held an administrative position. (In this account, names and places have been changed upon the request of the victim.)

This case is the reverse of the Bishop Bacani case where names were known and details kept under wraps, leaving the public to make wild conjectures about both the accused and accuser.

One night in April 1998, at about 11:30 p.m., Father CP knocked on Minda's home. Minda was alone. She awoke, surprised to see the 50-ish priest at the door. He just wanted to greet her, he said. They knew each other and worked in the same sector.

He had two slices of jelly roll and popsicles. Minda wanted him to leave but Father CP insisted on coming in. Minda was puzzled. She was sleepy, she told him. *"Huwag kang magala-ala, patutulugin kita* (Don't worry, I will make you fall asleep)," he joked. He emitted a foul odor that Minda could not describe.

Minda burst into tears as she recalled what happened that night. Once inside, Minda said, Father CP insisted that she ate. He told her: *"Respetuhin mo naman ang dinala ko* (Respect what I brought you)." He forced the food into Minda's mouth. Within moments Minda felt pain at the pit of her stomach. She rushed to her room and passed out.

Minda remembers a heaviness pressing down on her. Three times, she felt this that night. "The third time," Minda said, "I felt my head hitting the headboard." She could barely make out what was happening. Everything was a blur. She was limp.

It was daylight when she felt Father CP pulling her up and saying, "Wake up, wake up." Minda opened her eyes. "I saw Father CP totally naked," she said. He was trashing about in the room, picking up his briefs, his clothes.

Minda knew she had been violated. "I felt a wetness on my thighs and pubic area," she recalled. Father CP insisted that Minda dress up so he could drive her to her office. He was loud and fretful. It was only about 5 in the morning, Minda said. Besides he had just repeatedly raped her. He pulled her out of the bedroom toward the kitchen area.

Father CP put on his clothes and told Minda: "You have to go to (the bishop's home province). I'm sure (bishop's nickname) will understand. Or you could go to my brother in (place). But you have to take a leave from your work." Minda could not understand what he meant. Her mind was blank. Then he said: "God is just giving us some extras for our work. This is God's bonus."

Minda was so weak she had to lean on the kitchen sink. Even in that state, she forced herself to say something, to fight back. Sensing Minda's rage, Father CP told her: *"Nasuko ka na kay naiyutan ka nako* (Now you're mad because I f___d you)." He said this with contempt. He was vulgar, jeering. He walked out the door, leaving Minda in tears and in shock.

Minda went to work that day because she had to supervise a seminar. She vomited and spent the whole morning sleeping in her office. Minda was in a state of denial.

"Father CP visited our office two days later," Minda recalled. "He wanted to talk to me. He asked someone to buy ice cream for the staff. I avoided him and went to the next room. He stayed on, saying he wanted to borrow a typewriter." Minda's officemates did not notice anything unusual.

A month later, Father CP suddenly showed up in Minda's office. "He asked if I had my menstruation. I told him, don't disturb me, I am in a dilemma, I haven't had my menstruation." The pregnancy test kit said she was pregnant but Minda continued to be in a state of denial.

About May or June, Minda was in panic. She was starting to feel different. "My friends asked, why are you like that? You act like you are pregnant. That jolted me so I went to a clinic in Manila for a check-up."

It finally dawned on Minda that she was really with child. When she learned that Father CP was confined in a hospital, she went there to let him know. He was adamant. He lashed at the nurses who suddenly entered the room. He lashed at Minda. "I already told you to go to (place). If you stay here, you must terminate the pregnancy." A few days later, Minda went back to show Father CP the approval of her leave from work. The priest gave Minda P2,000.

Terminate the pregnancy. The priest's words swirled in her mind. Minda was frightened and alone. *(To be continued)*

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

THEY SAID

Why not?

"If it helps, why not use it?"

—Dr. Guia Abad on recommending ampalaya-based preparations to diabetics

Band-aid

"We don't need band-aid solutions."

—Speaker Jose de Venecia on Charter change being the final solution to end political bickering

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Ironing out some kinks in the AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

THE CONGRESSIONAL inquiry into the July 27 mutiny may be necessary but it is doubtful if it will help put an end to military coups or adventurism.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, the House defense committee chair probing the mutiny, says a law must be passed to establish a naval academy, an air force academy and an army academy to replace the Philippine Military Academy.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan says the PMA curriculum should be changed since the mutiny may have been inspired by the training and orientation of "mistahs." Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta agrees with the change.

It would be better if our lawmakers first looked into an old law that requires competitive entrance examinations for the PMA, whereby only two cadets will represent a congressional district, big or small. The idea is to prevent the officers' corps of any single region from achieving military ascendancy over the others. At one time, former House Speaker Jose B. Laurel proposed a bill that would stop the "Ilocanization" of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Another preemptive move is to put an end to the so-called "detached service" practice wherein certain units of the military would be put on "detail" elsewhere, like the Philippine Marines being detached from its mother service and assigned to, say, Malacañang, thereby effectively breaking the chain of command. Gringo Honasan and his men were on "detail" with the national defense secretary when he led the breakaway at Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame.

The government should also stop the practice of creating military commands, as what happened during the time of Marcos when he downgraded the Philippine Constabulary Zones and put up the Regional Unified Commands (RUCs). The highly mobile Metropolitan Command, the Presidential Security Command, or the much larger Southwestern Command (Sowescom) and the Southern Command (Southcom).

One must not be lulled into thinking that a military command is for operational efficiency alone. It is more than that. A military command is a mini-AFP with its commanding general reporting directly to the President of the republic.

Force is a persistent element in the lives of men and of nations. Like it or not, the AFP is an integral part of the national life. If a machine ain't broke, don't fix it.

—ALFREDO O. CUENCA JR., Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila

A decent, respectable priest

THIS refers to the article, "Catholics in Pampanga town seeks priest's ouster" (PDI, 8/28/03). Reportedly, "Catholics in Minalin town are appealing to Archbishop Paciano Aniceto to remove a priest from Sta. Monica parish after the priest allegedly molested two sacristans (altar knights), aged 15 and 17, in separate incidents in November last year."

First of all, the majority of Catholics in Minalin wish the reporter to check the report for accuracy. For two successive nights last Aug. 27 and 28, 2003, an overwhelming number of parishioners of Sta. Monica led by the parish council and accompanied by the town mayor, vice mayor, sangguniang bayan and youth organizations, gathered in a rally to appeal to the archbishop to retain Fr. Mark Manabat as parish priest of Sta. Monica, Minalin. As a Christian community, we can vouch for Father Mark's integrity.

The findings of an investigation that the archbishop sanctioned proved that the allegations against Father Mark were mere fabrications devised by certain quarters to injure his person and vocation. On the basis of those findings, the archbishop has cleared Father Mark of guilt.

—FLORENDO JUICO, president, Parish Pastoral Council, EDGARDO FLORES, mayor, ARTURO NAGUIT, vice mayor, CEZAR MAGAT, president, Association of Barangay Captains, Minalin, Pampanga

Bicol guerrillas also remembered

'I WAS deeply touched when I read "Unsung heroes unsung no more" by Tina Arceo-Dumlao (PDI, 8/31/03) which said that a two-story museum was established honoring and recognizing Yay Marking's guerrillas of World War II. It was set up by the Veterans Federation of the Philippines headed by retired Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo as president.

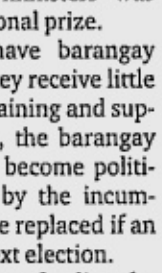
In Camarines Norte, the guerrillas of World War II who are now in the twilight of their lives, were also honored and recognized with the construction of the Veterans Marker at the right corner of the Daet municipal hall compound along the national highway in Barangay Pamorangon, where the names of those still living were engraved for posterity. The majority of these guerrillas belonged to the 54th Infantry Regiment, 5th Military District, 51st Division, USAFFE, of then Gov. Wenceslao Q. Vinzons and led by the late Col. Francisco "Turko" D. Boayes, commanding officer, better known as the Vinzons Division, Turko Command after the war.

Financed out of the contributions of the members of the VFP Camarines Norte Veterans District, the Veterans Marker has the message of Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo inscribed on one side of the obelisk erected over the square base.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., district adjutant, Veterans Federation of the Philippines, Daet, Camarines Norte

Health for all by the year 2000

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

IMAGINE a health care system where the frontlines in the war against disease are manned (and womanned) by community health workers at the village or barangay level.

These community workers, recruited from within the community itself and supported with a modest stipend, would also be able to treat common diseases and provide first aid for injuries, while referring more difficult cases to the next levels of health care. The health workers would know where to refer these cases, and help with the paperwork to process claims from PhilHealth. Where needed, they would also know where to turn to for subsidized drugs.

Treating illnesses would actually form a minor part of these health workers' routine. Much of their time would be spent on preventive health, educating people on health care, organizing them for immunization campaigns, clean water, good nutrition and environmental sanitation. The health workers would check on pregnant mothers early enough, identifying high-risk cases and referring them to the appropriate hospital. We would not have cases like that of the couple with quadruplets, running around from one hospital to another trying to get admitted.

In cases of disease outbreaks, including new mystery illnesses such as SARS, the health workers would help to keep the communities calm, launching information and education campaigns while instituting measures such as quarantine with the full support of neighbors and friends.

What I'm describing is an ideal situation with primary health care (PHC) operating. Until the 1990s, PHC appeared on every other document from the World Health Organization (WHO), touted as the way to achieve "Health for All by the Year 2000," a slogan abbreviated to HFA 2000. Tomorrow in fact marks the 25th anniversary of the Alma Ata declaration, where health officials from all over the world met, under the auspices of the WHO, to endorse PHC and HFA 2000.

Alas, we've moved into the new millennium and we're far from achieving HFA 2000. In fact, I think we have moved backwards, with more people having less access to health care now than 20 years ago.

What went wrong here? PHC sounds simple enough, and countries throughout the world, including the Philippines, did initiate moves to implement such programs. In the Philippines, under Marcos, health officials claimed they trained more than 300,000 barangay health workers throughout the country, a feat considered so impressive that one of our health ministers was awarded an international prize.

Today, we still have barangay health workers but they receive little support in terms of training and supplies. In many cases, the barangay health workers have become political pawns, selected by the incumbent mayor, only to be replaced if an opponent wins the next election.

This leaves Filipinos fending for themselves. Costs for going to the formal health care system—from physicians' consultation fees to medicines—are among the most expensive in the world, relative to local incomes. For most poor Filipinos without health insurance coverage, the only recourse is to run to politicians, hoping to get a meager dole-out to buy a few days' supply of medicines.

Health education is a farce in the country, the mass media filled with misinformation, often planted commercials, posing as feature articles. The small budgets people have end up going to medicines and gadgets of unproven efficacy.

PHC failed partly because health professionals were unsupportive, claiming PHC would produce "quack doctors." Of course, the real reason was that many interests were threatened, from hospitals that preferred to peddle expensive high-tech medicine, to drug companies fearful that people with health education would be more critical about their medicines.

Mostly though, PHC died because such programs received little political support. Politicians preferred to keep people ignorant and dependent, sponsoring an occasional charity medical mission as elections approached.

Other politicians saw PHC as dangerous. Primary health care programs were actually quite threatening because as people learned more about health, they also became more politicized, recognizing that diseases were caused not just by germs but by the polluting factories of big business, by government corruption, by low wages and poor working conditions. Good community health workers were, inevitably, good community organizers, people who were making people conscious that health itself was a basic human right that had to be fought for. No wonder that the few doctors who did support PHC were harassed, accused of being subversives. One of them, Bobby de la Paz, was assassinated while serving in Samar.

It is not surprising that the rhetoric around PHC became diluted with time, emphasizing health skills training with less mention of health as a political issue. Eventually, even these apolitical programs began to dwindle. In the Philippines, the Catholic Church, once so supportive of community-based health programs and PHC, moved away back to "safe" charity missions.

By the 1990s, non-government organizations knew health for all by 2000 was a pipe dream. Now, in the 21st century, no one seems to even want to dream of new targets, willing to accept that health will never be accessible to the majority.

* * *

A symposium, "25 years of PHC & 30 years of CBHP: Move Towards Health For All" will be held tomorrow, Sept. 12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Class '72 Theater, UP Manila College of Medicine, 547 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila. Call 952-6312 for more information.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'I can't imagine life without GMA'—Mike Arroyo

From page A1

and private concerns," he said.

He added that their daughter Luli and sons Mikey and Dato had been affected not only by the Jose Pidal controversy but also by Gunigundo's suggestion of legal separation.

"We get hurt. Our children feel the pain. I acknowledge that my family has been adversely affected by all of this, and I have apologized to them. I am sorry for the pain that this has caused my children and my wife," he said.

Arroyo said Luli had "really been hurt" and had been down with the flu for the past three days.

Separate and distinct

Touching on Gunigundo's proposal, Arroyo said: "We have kept our personal finances separate and distinct from any transactions and concerns which involve the public interest.

"The idea of legal separation has been proposed by a few individuals. Others have rejected the suggestion. I would like to think that they are all well-meaning and earnest about the welfare of our country, and it is in this spirit that I address their suggestion."

He said his detractors were now "hitting below the belt," and called on them to "please stop this campaign to destroy our family."

"It is not doing our people any good," he said. *"Tama na. Sobra na yan.* (That's enough. This is too much.) Do they want to be home wreckers?"

He also appealed to the public "to be more discerning."

"The public is intelligent and will not believe the lies of one senator," he said.

"All of these are fabrications to destroy President Arroyo and our family. They are using malicious and vicious lies and fabricated documents against myself and my family. I am confident that we will be vindicated."

FIRST GENTLEMAN: Like any couple, we have had our ups and downs. JESS YUSON

Even Erap says it's personal

By Armand Nocum

ALTHOUGH he scored the First Gentleman for bringing his accountant Victoria Toh to the presidential yacht, ousted leader Joseph Estrada is drawing the line on whether President Macapagal-Arroyo should break up with her husband to avoid being enmeshed in her husband's mess.

"I will not comment on that, it's just too personal. I have no business commenting on a very personal matter," Estrada said when sought for comment on Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo's proposal for Ms Macapagal to file for separation from her husband.

Estrada's romances are public knowledge having admitted to several mistresses and several other romantic affiliations.

Estrada's reluctance to speak on the matter contrasts with his earlier attacks on Arroyo for allegedly turning the Ang Pangulo, which Estrada refurbished during his term, as a "honeymoon" yacht.

Palace worried some Lakas men think Mike guilty

From page A1

legedly owns some of the accounts either separately or jointly with Arroyo.

The Palace officials also expressed disgust and disbelief at the proposal last Tuesday of Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo saying that the First Couple's marriage is none of his business.

Besides, a presidential aide said the President's hands were tied.

"As a devout Catholic, she would frown on it and take it with a grain of salt," said the aide, who did not want to be named.

"What we can say is that these comments are uncalled for because it involves private relations between a husband and wife and I believe a congressman should not interfere in a private family relationship," Ignacio Bunye, the President's spokesperson, said in an interview with the government-run Radyo ng Bayan.

Lay off

House Speaker Jose de Venecia also admonished Gunigundo to lay off the First Couple.

In a press conference yesterday, De Venecia said that while he respected the opinion of Gunigundo, he said the congressman has no business telling the First Couple in public what to do with their marriage.

"I believe that the marital relationship of the First Couple should be accorded the highest respect, privacy and sanctity that it deserves," he said.

"It should be spared from external pressures and speculation—and viewed within the context of the time-honored Filipino culture based on the preservation and unity of the family," he stressed.

De Venecia insisted that the relationship between the President and her husband was "very good."

Senate President Franklin Drilon agreed with De Venecia and said that "we should draw a line between a purely private personal matter and the affairs of state."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that the First Couple's affair was a "private matter" and refused to comment on the Gunigundo proposal.

A source in the Gunigundo camp said that the Valenzuela lawmaker had received calls from the camp of Mr. Arroyo asking him to "tone down" his statements about his proposal.

But Gunigundo said yesterday that he made the proposal in "good faith."

Mandela doctrine

"The President can follow the Mandela doctrine," Magtanggol Gunigundo (Lakas, Valenzuela) pointed out yesterday.

Gunigundo recalled that former South African President Nelson Mandela divorced his wife Winnie and didn't lift a finger to defend her against charges of graft and corruption.

"Winnie was eventually convicted and Mandela was not affected politically," Gunigundo said.

Gunigundo, a lawyer, stressed that he was not calling for an annulment of the marriage of the First Couple.

Gunigundo said that President Macapagal can effectively distance herself from her controversial spouse if the First Couple would divide their conjugal properties.

Lakas alarmed

Gunigundo had said the President should file for a legal separation from the First Gentleman to shield her from the "devastating effects of the 'Jose Pidal' controversy" and to save her administration from being "destroyed."

He said that members of the ruling party are alarmed at the effects of the controversy on the party in the coming elections and that they are "suffering in silence."

Gunigundo explained that legal separation does not mean a dissolution of marriage but only means that the Arroyos would no longer share a common bed and common property.

But in the Senate, Sen. Edgardo Angara, said that the separation of property "must take place" before the marriage.

Angara added that Ms Macapagal cannot be insulated from the "Jose Pidal" community property. "What Mike owns, Gloria owns, what Gloria owns, Mike owns," he said.

But Gunigundo said that under Article 136 of the Family Code, a couple can voluntarily ask the courts to divide their property.

Disclosure first

Opposition Rep. Didagen Dilangalen (Pwersa ng Masa) said that the First Couple must first disclose all their property before they are divided.

Dilangalen noted, for one, that there must be a determination on who really owns the controversial Jose Pidal bank accounts that Lacson claimed to be those of Mr. Arroyo. His younger brother, Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, had owned up to the Jose Pidal accounts but refused to answer questions about them during a Senate inquiry last Monday.

Administration Rep. Apolinario Lozada (Lakas, Negros Occidental) said it's too late for Ms Macapagal to have her conjugal property divided to escape the heat generated by the Pidal controversy.

"People will just ask: Why only now? The President could have done that during her first days in office," Lozada said.

Lozada said that a legal separation now would only be "anti-septic" and would not stop the clamor to unravel who really owns the millions of pesos deposited in the Pidal accounts.

Party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said that a legal separation would not be necessary "if only Mike Arroyo and Iggy Arroyo really come clean."

Ocampo said that it's Mr. Arroyo's "duty as a husband and patriot" to make a clean breast of the Jose Pidal controversy and in effect, "contribute to the country's political stability."

Still married to country

The President had refused to be drawn into the controversy. The only reference she made to the First Gentleman is that she is married to the country and won't lift a finger to protect him. Bunye had said there is still no certainty on whether the First Gentleman would accompany the President on her trip to the United States and Europe later this month.

The First Gentleman was more forthcomimg, admitting on nationwide television last week that the charges have put a strain on his marriage and family.

He begged forgiveness from their only daughter Luli, who was said to be the most devastated by the controversy, as well as the President.

Affairs of state

The President's deputy chief of staff Ricardo Saludo said he was not aware of the President personal reaction to Gunigundo's suggestion.

The President had busied herself with state affairs, often avoiding media coverage and making no statements about the progress of the Senate hearings on Lacson's charges.

Yesterday, she presided over another closed-door joint command conference with the police and military brass in Camp Aguinaldo and kept the media away from a mass oath-taking ceremony at the Palace.

Saludo stressed Malacañang's position that the raging Pidal controversy had nothing to do with the President's official capacity.

Cabinet mum on Pidal issue

Asked about the reported anxiety of some Lakas leaders over the effects of the controversy on the party's chances at winning the presidential race and other elective positions next year, Saludo said: "The Palace and the President do not have any comment to make on election issues as of this moment."

Saludo also said the Cabinet members are not talking about the Pidal controversy either.

"We had a Cabinet meeting last week and it was certainly not brought up even on the sidelines, there was not much discussion on it," said Saludo, the secretary to the Cabinet.

He said the President and the Cabinet were focused on the concerns of the moment, including the alleged destabilization plot against the government and the President's economic agenda.

"And this we see as the best way to help stabilize the country and the economy and combat the excessive politicking that is affecting the exchange rate, the confidence of business and the conduct of our government especially the areas where the politicking is quite intense," Saludo said. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

Senators admit Iggy issue one for high court

From page A1

"This is an issue that the Supreme Court should determine because it involves a constitutional issue," Senate President Franklin Drilon told reporters yesterday.

At the Senate hearing on Monday, Ignacio Arroyo refused to tell all about his businesses and the bank accounts he claimed he opened under the name of Jose Pidal.

This prompted the three Senate committees conducting the inquiry to schedule an executive session on Monday to decide on whether to compel Ignacio to shed light on the Jose Pidal accounts and on whether to cite him for contempt if he refused.

Drilon said any ruling by the Senate on the issue would not likely end the debate.

On Tuesday, Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, a constitutional expert, said Ignacio could go to the Supreme Court should senators make good their threat to have him cited for contempt and detained for clamming up on his financial transactions.

Sen. Edgardo Angara suggested that the Senate use a 1950 ruling of the Supreme Court to compel Ignacio to declare the Jose Pidal accounts, which Sen. Panfilo Lacson claims have been used by the First Gentleman to launder money.

The tribunal's ruling upheld a Senate move to cite for contempt and detain a Frenchman for refusing to identify a relative of then President Elpidio Quirino whom he allegedly bribed to pave the way for the sale of a government estate in Novaliches.

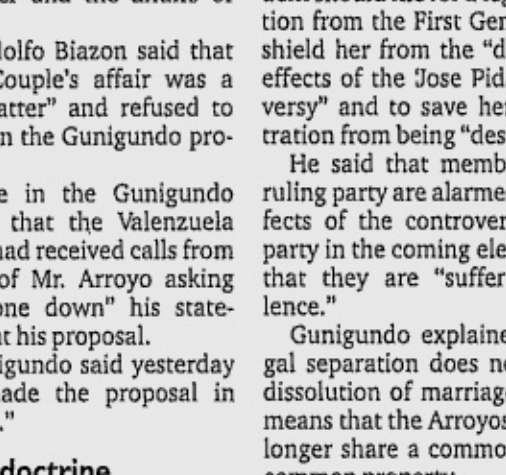
Areas of jurisdiction

Angara said yesterday that a ruling by the high court would clarify areas of jurisdiction. "It will also set a ruling on how far we can go in aid of legislation ... and enhance the authority of the Senate," he said.

Still, Angara maintained that the right to privacy was a civil and not a constitutional right.

"Privacy is found in the Civil Code and that is quite explicit that you have the right to privacy. If that is invaded then you have a right to collect damages from the people who may have invaded your privacy," Angara said.

The Constitution only mentions freedom from unlawful searches and seizures, he said.



IGNACIO "Iggy" Arroyo: Is Jose Pidal entitled to invoke right to privacy? RANDY HORMILLOSA

"We are not searching his house or tapping his telephone, so he cannot use this right to privacy claim," Angara said of Ignacio.

The opposition senator urged Ignacio to think deeply "if he is prepared to disclose fully or remain silent and uncooperative."

"And I would strongly suggest that he now cooperate with the fact-finding body because, as I keep repeatedly saying, once you have disclosed the details of transactions, you cannot suddenly say that you cannot disclose the rest of the transactions," Angara told reporters.

Senator Arroyo predicted that the legal impasse on the Senate probe of the Jose Pidal bank accounts would reach the Supreme Court.

Short of admitting that magistrates, not politicians, should rule on the issue, Arroyo said: "This case will reach the Supreme Court, however we may rule. One way or the other, I will have to defend (the Senate decision) before the Supreme Court."

He said this would be a test case in constitutional law "because the right to privacy had never been invoked (in a congressional hearing)."

Public issue

At a press conference, Senator Arroyo pointed out that only the issue of self-incrimination had been settled, and deemed a doctrine in the Supreme Court.

Senator Arroyo admitted that the controversy sparked by Lacson's exposé had "graduated into a public issue."

"What started as something private is now a public issue. Because media have made this a public issue. The public is (now) so interested in it," he said.

But the chair of the blue ribbon committee, the lead committee investigating the Jose Pidal accounts, said the man who claimed ownership of the accounts, Ignacio, could invoke his constitutional right to privacy.

"That's up to him. That right is enshrined in the Constitution. It should be respected," the senator said.

Nuances

"That is the philosophy of the Bill of Rights. When somebody invokes his right to privacy, it is an individual against the Senate, a government entity. Now it's up to us to know the nuances of all of these," Senator Arroyo said.

He said these nuances were "a little difficult to explain."

But he pointed out that there was no question about the existence of the right of privacy. "The question is whether Ignacio is covered by that protection."

"I will abide with the majority. And if that is the ruling of the majority, I will defend it in the Supreme Court. That is my lot as chairman," Senator Arroyo said.

He expressed the hope that senators would arrive at a position which the Supreme Court would uphold.

Senator Arroyo disclosed that seven senators had already left the country for Cancun, Mexico, to attend the World Trade Organization meeting.

"I don't know how many will leave tonight," he said. "But we'll manage."

Since senators call him from time to time, Senator Arroyo expects a consensus would be reached before the break.

"We owe it to the public that we should come out with a decision on this," he said.

Besides the issue of privacy, the senators will decide on the motion filed by Sen. Robert Barbers asking the joint committees to halt the inquiry until after Lacson had produced the necessary documentary evidence.

Cop chiefs firm up fight vs terror on fairways

From page A1

(Aseanapol) conference are in Manila to firm up regional security in the face of threats posed by terrorists and transnational drug rings, but toward the end of their three-day conference today, they would have spent much of their time on leisure—playing golf, to be exact.

The chiefs of police representing the 10 member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are scheduled to tee off at 8 a.m. today for the Aseanapol conference tournament at Wack Wack in Mandaluyong City.

On Monday, they had a "practice round" in preparation for the tournament, a source from Wack Wack told the INQUIRER. They were accompanied by representatives from the Australian Federal Police, European Police and the International Police, who are also in town for the conference, the source said.

The officials arrived at Wack Wack at lunchtime, or several hours after they graced the opening ceremonies at the Manila Hotel. They played golf till around 5 p.m., the source said.

The delegates, towing their expensive golf sets in carts, returned about an hour later, just in time for the dinner hosted by Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief and the Aseanapol conference host this year.

In his welcome address, Ebdane reminded the participants of the need to "strengthen, revitalize and expand our cooperative partnership," what with the "scourge of terrorism coming closer to our native shores."

Ebdane and at least 15 other top PNP officials are expected to join their visitors in today's golf tournament, the Wack Wack source said.

A police regional director, who was among those invited, yesterday described the event as a "fellowship."

"It's been a tradition during Aseanapol conferences," he said.

The delegates were treated to yet another "fellowship" when they toured Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon yesterday.

While their bosses were killing time elsewhere, lower-ranking members of the delegations were left to do the staff work at the Manila Hotel. This, too, has also been a tradition, according to a member of the Malaysian delegation who had attended previous Aseanapol conferences.

"What usually happens is that police chiefs are just told of the day's events while they're playing golf," he said.

The delegates were divided into three commissions, tackling illegal drugs, transnational and cyber crimes, and joint training exercises among Asean police forces.

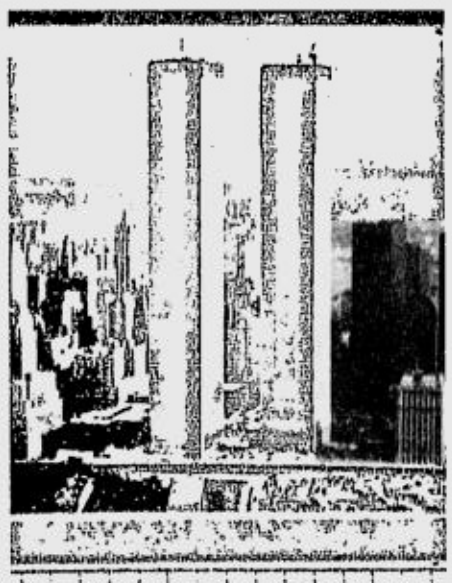
They are to present their proposals and sign a joint communiqué at the end of the conference today.

Meanwhile, Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday denied rumors that the Ermita area was closed to traffic on Tuesday night for the visiting police chiefs.

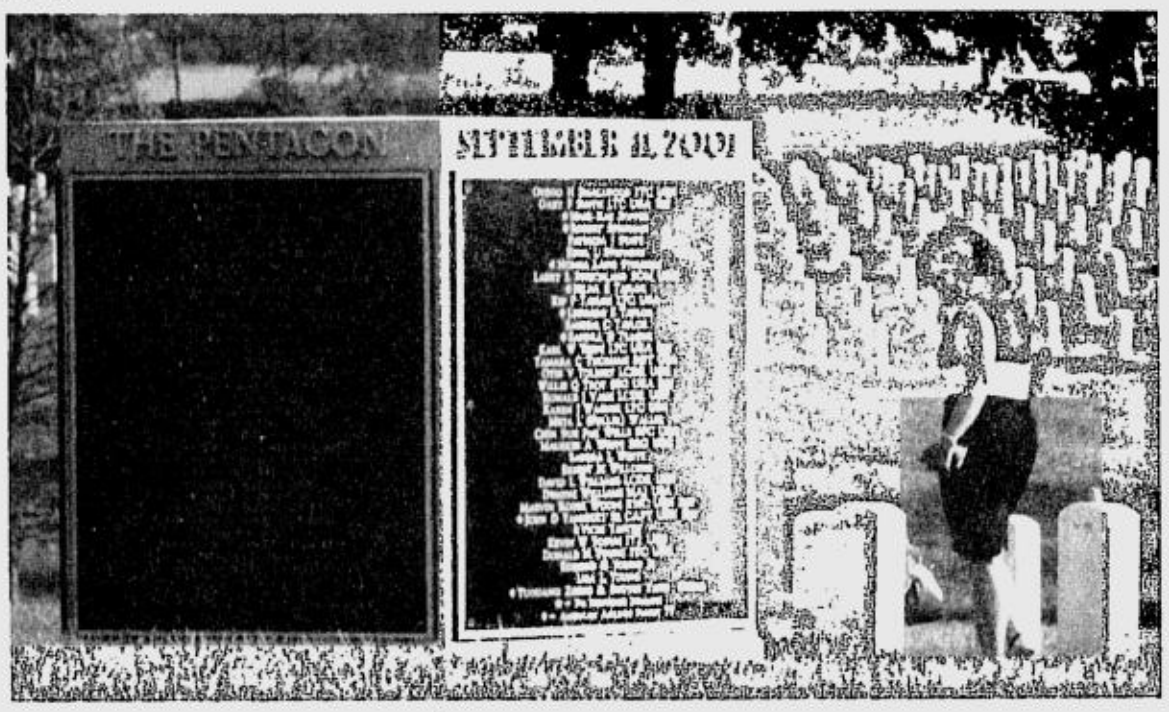
He said not all of the foreign police chiefs went to Ermita that night because the others attended a party aboard a floating restaurant.

"Only the usual security forces were deployed there on Tuesday night. The Asean police chiefs already have their own security," he said. With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

SEARED into the memory of the world is the burning inferno of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center as the hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston crashes into the building. GETTY IMAGES



TOURISTS from Sacramento, California, visit the site teeming with powerful emotions. AP



NAMES of the victims of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon are etched in a group burial marker in Arlington, Virginia, outside Washington. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

9/11 victims: Indelible memories in tattoos

From page A1

her sister Helen nurse him to recovery.

Gould's tattoo of an angel embracing a heart, with "Neil" inked above it and 9-11-01 etched below, was photographed by New York photographer Vinnie Amesse. It is among 55 of his photographs in the "Indelible Memories: September 11th Memorial Tattoos" exhibit at the Staten Island Historical Society open through Oct. 5.

In the attacks, the borough of Staten Island just south of lower Manhattan lost a disproportionate number of people to its population—267 out of 443,000 residents.

Most of the 47 men and eight women who are subjects of the exhibit are firefighters, but there are also business managers, teachers, nurses and students among them.

Some of the symbols and images tattoo artists inked on the arms, legs and torsos of the men and women are a firefighter emblem, an eagle, the US flag and the New York skyline.

City education department investigator George Henrique, 55, had never had a tattoo. He chose to have a smiling portrait of his daughter Michelle emblazoned on his left shoulder.

She was 27 and worked as an executive secretary for Fiduciary Trust in the World Trade Center.

"I don't know what planted the idea," Henrique said. "It just started to grow in me. It was just a feeling inside that became a thought, the feeling before the thought.

"In this way I see her every day."

Silent vigil

A group of people who lost family members in the Sept. 11 attack also accused civic leaders on Tuesday of politicizing their anniversary and announced plans for a silent vigil at the World Trade Center site.

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, whose members empathize with war victims in Afghanistan and Iraq, said Wednesday night's procession down Broadway was an alternative to Thursday's official ceremony.

"We are all very weary of Ground Zero, a sacred space, where there are still remains of people, being used as a backdrop. We want a hands-off policy for any candidate from any political party," Andrew Rice, whose brother David was killed in the New York attack, said at a news briefing.

"This week is a sacred week and we hope that especially next year with the Republican convention (taking place in New York) that it will not be appropriated by people for their own political gains."

At the Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2004, Republican National Convention in New York, President George W. Bush is expected to win his party's nomination to run for reelection in that year's November presidential vote.

Alternative to war

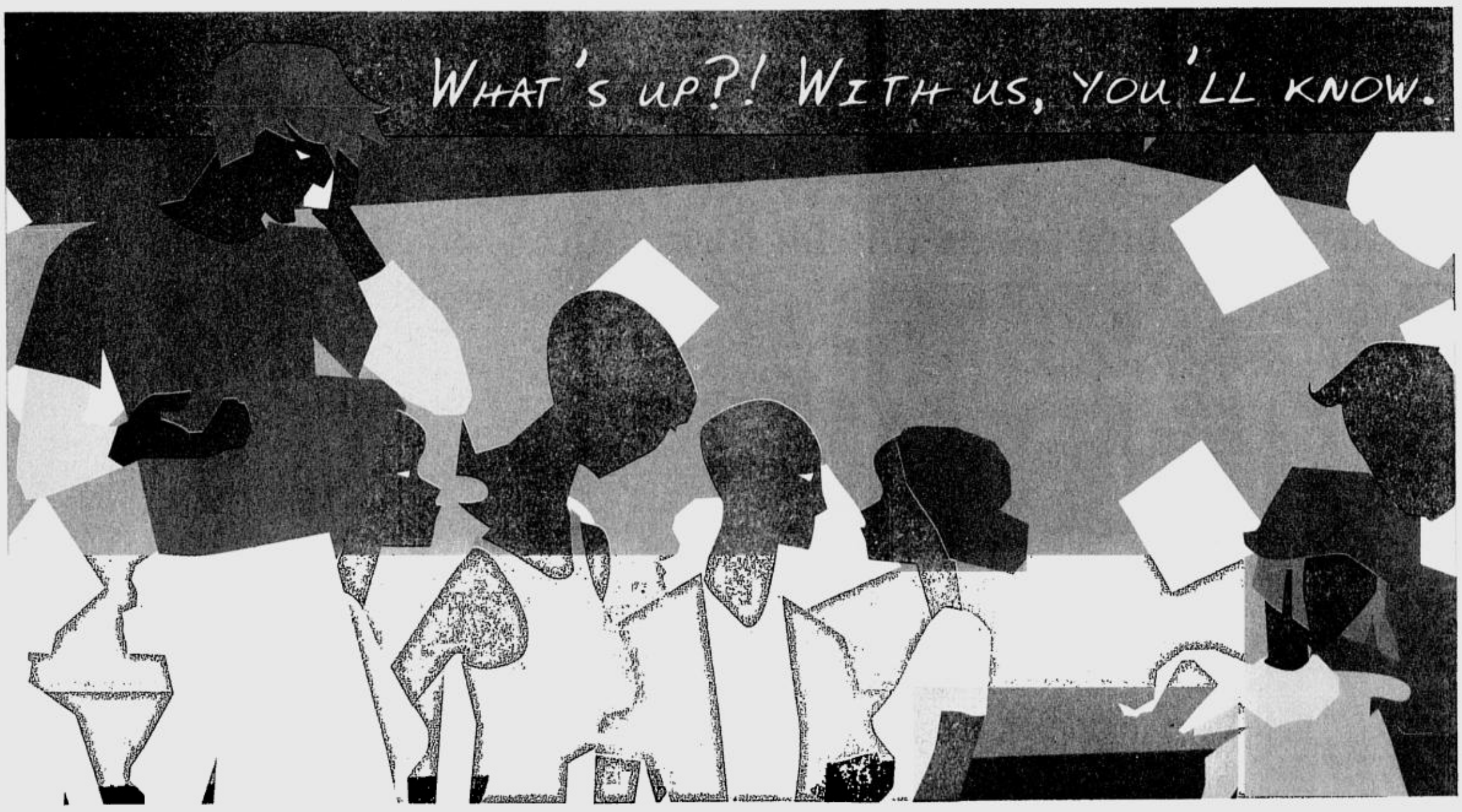
Others in the Families group, which has 90 members in 23 states and three other nations, said they wanted Bush to adopt more alternatives to military force in the "war on terrorism."

David Potorti, who also lost a brother in New York, said he believed armies could be used sparingly, "but any time you use military action it is always a disaster for somebody, always."

Potorti said he was troubled by Bush saying in a televised address on Sunday night that the US-British war on Iraq was one of the most humane and swift in military history.

"He is denying the reality of the deaths of other people just like my brother. That's who we are trying to memorialize here, the civilian victims in New York, Washington, in Pennsylvania as well as Afghanistan and Iraq."

Vigil co-organizer Kelly Campbell, whose brother was killed in the attack on the Pentagon near Washington, said hundreds of people would carry flashlights and form "circles of hope" around the 6.4-hectare site where the twin towers once stood. Then, bells would ring at nearby St. Paul's chapel in remembrance of the people killed in the four hijacked plane attacks two years earlier. *Reuters*



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No. 13 lucky for Erap, bad day for Davide

From page A1

peachment complaint against eight Supreme Court justices led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. who legitimized the ascension to power of President Macapagal-Arroyo in January 2001 during the Edsa II revolt.

The committee on justice said the impeachment complaint was sufficient in form.

"For the first time, the number 13 proved lucky for Erap," Rep. Ronaldo Zamora (Pwersa ng Masa), a former executive secretary of Estrada, merrily noted after the hearing.

Not 13th president

Estrada didn't even want to be referred to as the 13th President and just wanted to be known as the 12th President of the republic, Zamora recalled. Estrada is currently detained on corruption charges.

To uphold the complaint's sufficiency in form, the committee on justice needs to muster 33 votes, the simple majority of the committee's total membership of 64.

At yesterday's roll call, only 21 members made it to the hearing. There was a quorum but the number of representatives present was not enough to complete a vote, according to committee chair Rep. Marcelino Libanan (NPC).

The committee has until Oct. 15 to determine whether the complaint is sufficient in form and substance before it makes a report for the House plenary, according to Libanan.

An impeachment complaint needs at least 74 votes or two-thirds of the members of the House before it can be transmitted to the Senate for trial.

When the President is the one impeached, the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court Chief Justice head the Senate impeachment court. In other impeachment cases, the Senate President shall head the impeachment tribunal.

Partial victory

Estrada described the committee's vote as a "partial victory for the people."

"I am very happy about it," Estrada said in a telephone interview. "I know the truth about my forcible unseating from office will come, and this is it. Those justices staged a coup against me."

Estrada expressed optimism that the same voting trend in the House committee on justice would continue.

He said the eight members of the Supreme Court might now be feeling the heat for removing him from office "illegally." Aside from Davide, those included in the impeachment complaint were Justices Artemio Panganiban Jr., Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona.

Like him, Estrada said the justices must submit themselves to the impeachment proceedings.

"I readily faced the impeachment proceedings, but it was they who aborted it. Now, let the justices face the same process so that the truth will come out," Estrada said. "I was robbed of the presidency through the action of these justices."

Long way to go

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong downplayed the voting in the House committee on justice, saying it was not even first base. "It still has a long way to go," he said.

"It cannot be rushed. There will be notices, replies, and rejoinders," Datumanong said.

He said that before the impeachment complaint could move forward the committee on justice would still have to decide on whether it is "sufficient in substance."

To decide if it is "sufficient in substance," the committee must find "probable cause" that Davide and the justices did violate the Constitution, the justice secretary said.

He said Davide and the justices would be asked to comment only after the committee decided that there was probable cause.

Datumanong then called on everybody not to exacerbate the already highly charged political atmosphere in the country.

Constitutional crisis

He said there would be "a sort of constitutional crisis" if Davide and the justices were impeached.

"It will be a chaotic situation," he said.

But Estrada said the allegedly unconstitutional acts of the Supreme Court justices were the cause of the political and economic instability in the country.

"The Constitution says I could only be replaced in case of resignation, impeachment, permanent disability and death. But none of these conditions existed. There was impeachment, but they aborted it," he said.

"Clearly, the justices violated the Constitution when they swore in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at Edsa. I hope the mistake could be corrected because it was not me who was fooled and robbed of power, but the millions of Filipinos who voted for me," he said. "These justices must be made to account for their actions."

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. assured the public that the impeachment complaint against the Supreme Court justices would not be used for any destabilization campaign against the government.

5-point agreement

"The hearing will not be a launching pad for destabilization moves and for destructive persecution and poisonous character assassination against the Supreme Court justices," De Venecia said at a press conference.

He said the House would not, in any way, contribute to destabilization efforts, particularly in dealing with controversial political issues.

The Speaker cited the five-point agreement reached last week among leaders of the Senate and the House that included a moratorium on mudslinging to create an atmosphere conducive for the holding of a political summit later this month.

He said that leaders of Lakas, NPC and the Liberal Party had acknowledged the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

At the hearing, Rep. Didagen Dilangalen (Pwersa ng Masa) suggested that the committee on justice allow those absent to cast their votes later through a written form.

The committee upheld Dilangalen's proposal and scheduled its next hearing for Oct. 7 for the tallying of votes.

Zamora and Dilangalen were two of the three congressmen who first endorsed the impeachment complaint. The third was Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP). Representatives Gilbert Remulla (LDP) and Emmylou Talino-Santos later endorsed the complaint.

Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) didn't cast a vote during the hearing, saying he wanted to further study the matter because the impeachment case impinges on the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

"We abide by the legitimacy of the ouster of President Estrada and we have to be careful with how we handle this impeachment case against the Supreme Court justices," Ocampo said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Airport scam papers came from Diaz office

From page A1

Manda said Tuesday that Diaz's crusade for reforms appeared to be the reason for her murder, and that she had been receiving death threats for months.

A witness, now in the custody of the Philippine National Police, has provided a description of the gunman.

Eyewitness

"We now have a witness," PNP Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco told reporters yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo. "That's why we were able to produce a cartographic sketch. Apparently the perpetrator is a lone gunman ... backed up by a motorcycle-riding guy."

Velasco, director of the National Capital Region Police Office, said Diaz's relatives, particularly her sister Cherry, would be invited to provide "some insights" on the killing. He said a person fearing for his/her life would "normally" divulge this to family or close friends.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wyococo met with Diaz's sister and five of her friends and colleagues at the bureau office yesterday. Wycoco said they had requested that the bureau take part in the probe.

Velasco said investigators would examine a list of people who allegedly issued threats to Diaz, which Manda had supposedly submitted to authorities.

"We have to look at all the possibilities and zero in on the one who has the closest motive," he said.

But Velasco said he did not view Diaz's murder as part of a series of ambushes of prominent personalities, including Go Teng Kok of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association months ago.

"There seems to be no pattern. These are individual cases," he said.

No accounting

Records of the income earned from the porter services at the two airports showed that in March to December 1999, Saber collected from arriving passengers P115.1 million; January to December 2000, P140.3 million; and January to April 2001, P38.9 million.

In March to December 1999, Saber collected from departing passengers P57.1 million; January to December 2000, P72.4 million; and January to April 2001, P21.8 million.

There has been no accounting of where the money went although Saber, in a letter to Gana dated Feb. 3, 1999, said it was a foundation formed to raise funds for Estrada's charity projects.

In that letter, Saber introduced itself as a "non-stock, non-profit organization organized primarily to engage in socio-civic and charitable projects" of then President Estrada.

"The current focus of the foundation is a scholarship program for Muslim scholars. Other projects in Mindanao are also being developed," said the letter signed by Saber project manager Richard I. Harn.

The contract awarded to Saber was eventually reviewed by the MIAA business development and concessions department headed by Enrico Quiambao.

The review, which also passed through the office of Diaz, raised suspicions on how Saber got the contract and where the money that it earned from porter services went.

"With the huge amount of money derived from porterage services, it is hereby submitted that the ... highly irregular transactions leading to the award of [contracts] to Saber ... are more than sufficient to assume that the foundation was used as a scheme to enrich some persons at the expense of the [airport] authority," the review said.

"The persons mentioned could be the then President [Estrada] and his chosen few," it said.

According to an airport official who requested anonymity, the money went straight to Saber and did not pass through the MIAA anymore.

In a financial statement submitted in December 1999, Saber declared an income of P404,699, which, according to the review conducted on the contract, was "greatly understated."

DIAZ: Receiving death threats for months

The review added that despite repeated requests made by airport authorities and audit officials, Saber failed to submit a report "on where the scholarship fund goes, together with the complete list and documents of their supposed scholars."

A copy of the articles of incorporation of Saber, which was certified by the Securities and Exchange Commission on Jan. 29, 1999, listed Mario E. Hisuler, Godofredo C. de Guzman, Crisologo O. Dionido, Elvi Peter L. Relampagos and Porter Pogoon as the foundation's incorporators.

'Standard procedure'

The day before the murder, Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta mentioned Diaz's name during a hearing of the Senate inquiry on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations of corruption and money laundering against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

But yesterday, Oreta said that she had no personal knowledge or dealings with the murdered airport official.

"It's standard operating procedure in our office to do research on the questions to be asked during public hearings," she said.

Oreta said it was merely coincidental that her staff chanced on the name of Diaz as one of those allegedly involved in the Lualhati Foundation headed by Manda.

"It was unfortunate that the day after I asked the question, she was killed," said Oreta.

During the Senate hearing on Monday, Oreta asked Manda if he knew Diaz. Manda answered in the affirmative but the senator did not follow through on her question.

Oreta refused to comment on the timing and nature of Diaz's death.

"I don't want to speculate on anything. Let's leave that to the authorities to find out," she said.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque City chief of police, told the INQUIRER that their initial investigation of the ambush had led them to two possible angles: that a contract on Diaz's life was taken out by Naia employees whom she transferred as part of her moves to rid the airport of graft and corruption, and that an airport contractor that had filed a graft case against Diaz, the Olongapo Maintenance Service Inc., was involved.

"We are set to invite some people who we think became her enemies. We need them to give information so we can close the case," Estilles said.

He said they were also pursuing the two angles based on interviews they conducted with Cherry Diaz.

The NBI's Wycoco said among the bureau's first actions would be to invite for questioning four employees of the MIAA.

"We will try to branch out from there," he said without naming the four.

Wycoco also said that "since it has been mentioned in the media," among the angles that the bureau would check out was the possible connection between Diaz's ambush and the Saber Foundation.

'Irregular operation'

At the House, Rep. Consuelo Dy (Lakas, Pasay City) called on the committees on good governance and on transportation and communication to look into Saber's "irregular business operation."

Dy noted that Saber was organized primarily to fund Estrada's projects, including scholarships for Muslim students.

However, she said, Saber "operated as a firm, not as a foundation, raking in huge sums of money and enriching some persons at the expense of the [MIAA]."

Dy said Saber had failed to submit a report on where the supposed scholarship fund was spent, "together with the complete list and documents of their supposed scholars."

She said Saber had cheated both the national government and the Pasay City government of taxes from its income. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa, Leila B. Salaverria, Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo*

Peso bounces back to 54.95 to US dollar

From page A1

outflow due to lingering security concerns and corruption allegations against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband.

The peso has been hovering near its historic low of 55.75 to the dollar, the level seen two and a half years ago when then President Joseph Estrada was toppled in Edsa II.

Buenaventura told Focap that the BSP move on Tuesday to restrict the purchase of dollars in the spot market to buy dollar-denominated Philippine sovereign bonds (ROPs) was not a form of capital control.

While analysts said the measure was aimed at propping up the flagging peso, Buenaventura insisted that it was aimed at limiting currency speculation.

The BSP governor said the measure would still allow banks and importers to buy dollars for "a productive activity" such as trade and debt servicing. "We're just trying to plug loopholes," he said.

Even so, analysts said the measure was aimed at propping up the peso which threatened to touch record lows after the July 27 military mutiny and rising political uncertainty in the run-up to the presidential election in May next year.

"The primary reason seems to be easing the pressure on the peso now," said a treasury analyst at a local bank. "ROPs are seen as a good investment at the same time as providing an exchange rate hedge."

Wait and see

Other analysts said they would wait to see how effective the central bank's move would be in stabilizing the peso.

They noted the new rules might hurt government fundraising efforts by discouraging local players from buying Philippine dollar-denominated debt.

On Wednesday, the government said it might raise $200-$250 million in the overseas debt markets in the next month and a half.

While a weak peso boosts export competitiveness, a steep slide by the local currency would raise the cost of servicing the country's foreign debt and could threaten the annual inflation target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent as imported goods would be more costly.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday tried to calm worries over the plummeting peso, saying the central bank had the capability to halt the currency's fall.

"The central bank has the power and the tools to stabilize the exchange rate in tandem with market forces," Ms Macapgal said in statement.

"We have fostered consistent macroeconomic stability, but this is being affected by mild transient shocks occasioned by politicking and destabilization attempts. We have gradually pulled the nation back on track, and there is no cause for undue concern."

At the Focap forum, Buenaventura said the central bank wanted stiffer penalties for peso speculators but said any hike in the P30,000 per day penalty needed approval from Congress.

"In our request for an amendment, we have asked to bring it up to 300,000 or higher. The current penalty is roughly 10 years old," he said, but added no violators had been caught lately.

Tuesday's measure followed an Aug. 28 policy change when the central bank scrapped a three-tiered system on its overnight borrowing to siphon off excess liquidity in the market discourage banks from speculating against the peso.

Buenaventura said the SARS outbreak, the war in Iraq, high oil prices and other "noneconomic factors" had pressured the peso and scared away investors.

He also cited a Court of Appeals ruling suspending him and other central bank officials last month. The ruling rattled investor confidence even though Buenaventura and the other officials still remain at their posts.

Buenaventura said he would appeal the ruling, adding he was confident that he would complete his term as BSP governor until 2005.

Clearly no panic

"Portfolio investments . . . are being prevented from coming in because some people are saying you better wait on the sidelines until things materialize, but clearly there is no panic in the market," he said.

Buenaventura also cited seasonal factors such as an upturn in imports and a traditional drop in remittances from the millions of Filipinos working overseas as further pulling down the peso in August and September.

However, these factors will pass as imports traditionally slow down and remittances increase in the last months of the year.

Buenaventura said he expected the political anxiety to calm down after the presidential election scheduled on May 10, 2004.

"Once we have a fresh mandate, maybe we will have six years of ... economic reform," he said.

Buenaventura said that the central bank would not use its foreign reserves to prop up the local currency.

The central bank, which borrowed $500 million earlier this year, was scheduled to borrow another $500 million more before the end of 2003 to further bolster its foreign exchange reserves and boost confidence. *Reports by Clarissa Batino, AP, AFP and Reuters*

ALL UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES GRADUATES OF 2002

The UP Alumni Association Elections Committee has issued a resolution allowing all 2002 graduates to cast their ballots (mailed to them earlier) for the election of the new UPAA Board of Directors 2003 -2006

Your ballots must reach us by mail or other means at the addresses below not later that 5p.m. 30 days upon publication or October 10, 2003.

UPPA Elections Committee
P.O. Box 233, Phil. Post Office
UP Diliman Campus Branch
QC 1101

or

UPAA Secretariat
Ang Bahay ng Alumni
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon Cuty

FOUR DIGIT
5 2 3 7
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
8 8 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45
2 6 32 33 39 45

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

DPWH: Avenida closure illegal

Mayor insists project to benefit public

By Leila B. Salaverria

PUBLIC works officials have put a foot across the pedestrianization project of Manila Mayor Joselito "Lito" Atienza, who is converting a section of Rizal Avenue into a shopping haven.

In an opinion, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said the closure of a portion of Rizal Avenue in Manila was unlawful.

The DPWH legal opinion signed by National Capital Region Director Ramon Aquino was in response to a complaint filed by Manila resident Tina Testa, who questioned the closure of the avenue from Carriedo to CM Recto Avenue.

Citing a provision from the Revised Philippine Highway Act, the opinion said the conversion of roads into other uses was illegal.

It also pointed out that roads constructed and maintained by the national government were intended for public use.

"National roads, in particular, are for the collective enjoyment of all people in the state. Property of public dominion is intended for the common and public welfare, therefore it cannot be the object of appropriation by the state or by private persons," Aquino said.

He further added: "Property of public dominion are outside the commerce of men, hence they cannot be acquired by prescription, not even by municipalities as against the State."

Aquino also said public property could only be used for a different purpose by the government or by private persons only when there is a formal declaration by the executive or legislative branch that the said property is no longer needed for public use.

"It shall be unlawful for any person to usurp any portion of Right of Way, to convert any part of any public highway, bridge, wharf or trail to his own private use or to obstruct the same in any manner or to use any highway beach for irrigation or other private purposes," Aquino quoted section 23 of the revised highway act.

Testa filed the complaint with the DPWH after Atienza permanently closed the Muelle del Rio to traffic. Rizal Avenue was supposed to be closed to traffic for sixty days on the basis of a local ordinance.

But the closed portion of the Rizal Avenue is already being paved over with bricks. Atienza himself has said in interviews that he plans to turn the whole re-paved stretch into a promenade and said traffic would instead be rerouted to the smaller streets of Manila.

"If you recall, Mayor Lito Atienza announced that the closure was only for 60 days, which has already expired. The street has already been tiled and, obviously, will never be opened to traffic," Testa said in a letter to DPWH Secretary Florante Soriquez.

Motorists have earlier complained of an increase in traffic congestion ever since the closure of the roads.

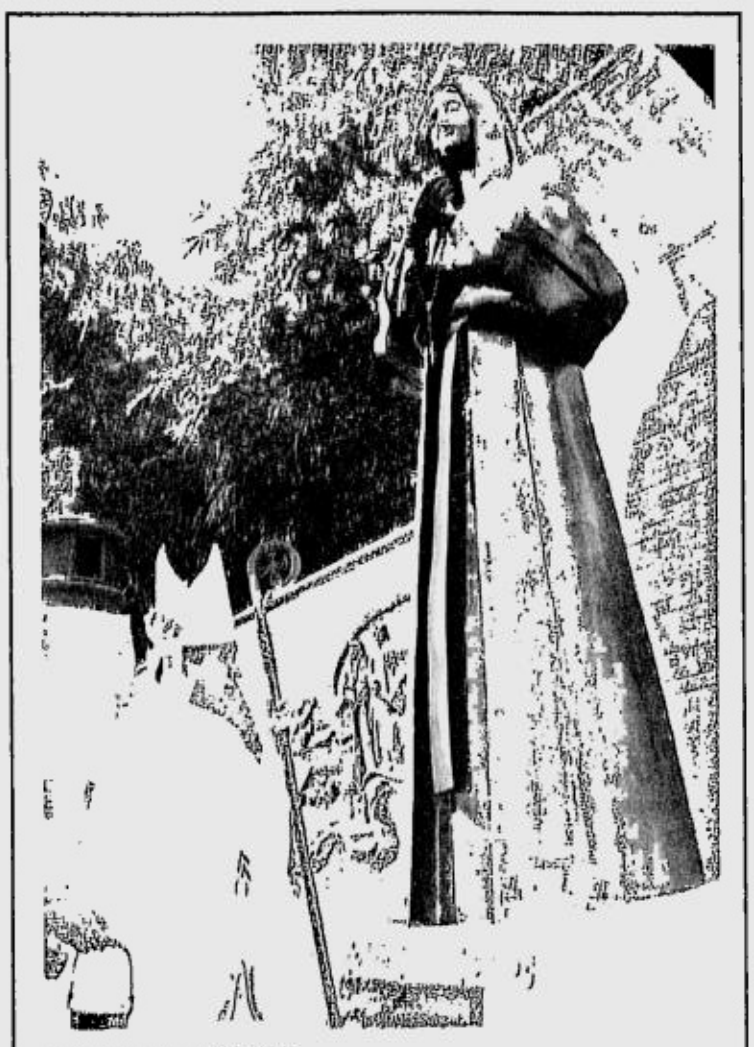
But Atienza said Rizal Avenue was still for public use.

"We are not appropriating it for any private use. The nature of it being public is maintained," Atienza told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Since the Rizal Avenue Pedestrianization project began last June, the northbound lane of Rizal Avenue, from Carriedo Street to Claro M. Recto Avenue has been closed to traffic.

"The City Council is supporting the project. Eventually there will be a city ordinance that would provide for its permanent closure to traffic," said Atienza.

For his part, Manila legal officer Melchor Monsod said, "It remains to be public in character. When the project is finished, that portion will be open to pedestrians. The closure is not for the benefit of any particular person."



BLESSED FILIPINA
Bishop Socrates Villegas blesses the statue of Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo unveiled yesterday at the Light and Sound Museum in Intramuros. ERIK ARAZAS

Makati bags 800 litterbugs

By Margaux Ortiz

THINKING of using Makati City streets as your personal trash can? Think again.

The Makati City's Anti-Littering Task Force under the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) has apprehended 814 violators from July 1 to Aug. 31.

SWMD-Information, Education and Communication (IEC) section head Erjufel Dionisio said the violators were apprehended in the city's central business district and major thoroughfares for violating city ordinances on cleanliness and beautification.

Dionisio said 86 of the "litterbugs" were fined P500 each and made to attend a one-day seminar on the city's anti-littering and cleanliness program.

Dionisio said 20 of these were Makati residents while the rest were transients and visitors.

"Cases will be filed against the others who refused to attend the seminar and pay the corresponding fines," Dionisio said in a statement.

Should litterbugs fail to appear at the SWMD office on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue within five days after receiving a summons, charges will be filed against them before the Makati Prosecutors Office.

Gallant driver treats friends to shabu, lands in jail

By Luige del Puerto

BE CAREFUL what you treat your friends to.

A 67-year-old pedicab driver found himself in jail the other night for treating his visitors to a pot session at his house in Marikina City.

"They wanted to sniff shabu, so I bought some for them," said Eddie Miguel of the Tumana District.

His friends, Jimmy Rabino, 33, and Eddie Ducal, 28, both of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, could only sigh in disbelief at their situation.

P01 Virgilio Calanoga, who posed as the buyer, said Miguel had been using his home as a drug den for the past few weeks.

On Tuesday, the police got a tip that a pot session was ongoing at Miguel's house.

The police confiscated four sachets of shabu and shabu paraphernalia during the raid.

High court to pay for judges' rent

By Tarra Quismundo

THE SUPREME Court has agreed to share payment for the city's rental of the old Ombudsman Building, where some of Manila's trial courts are now housed.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the Supreme Court, through court administrator Presbitero Velasco, has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the lease of the old building on the old Arroceros Street.

Seven of Manila's 56 regional trial courts and 10 of the 30 Metropolitan Trial Courts were relocated to the building in April.

According to the agreement, City Hall and the Supreme Court will split the P681,682.50 monthly rental for the building.

Rally turns ugly; UP prof hurt

By Tina Santos

STUDENTS and faculty of the University of the Philippines clashed with lawmen Tuesday afternoon at the Senate grounds resulting in injury to several people including a university professor.

Protesters from the UP Not for Sale Coalition described the incident as a "violent dispersal."

On the other hand, Pasay City police chief Oscar Catalan said the demonstrators initiated the clash when these forced their way into the Senate compound.

Protest organizers also did not have a permit, Catalan added.

The INQUIRER gathered that UP students and faculty were at the Senate to seek the rejection of Senate Bill No. 2587, which proposes a new UP charter.

The bill seeks, among others, to empower the Board of Regents, UP's highest policy-making body, to enter into a joint venture agreements with the private sector.

Coalition members said the plan would result in the corporatization of the state university and will justify the State's abandonment of education.

At about 4 p.m., the police said the protesters barged through the Senate gates and clashed with lawmen and Senate guards.

Violence ensued.

After the incident, professor Melania Abad suffered a fractured foot and bruises in different parts of her.

Abad, professors Rommel Rodriguez, Jonathan Pimentel and students Unica Aure, Eleazar Samaniego, Victor Pobre, Andrei Philippe Ramos and Mark Rivera were arrested and detained at the Pasay City police station.

Others arrested were Atom Auraullo, Jeff Giron, John Corsiga, Marco delos Reyes and Raffy Lerma.

They were charged with illegal assembly and assault and were released at 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

The alleged police brutality has been denounced by the Congress of Teachers/Educators for Nationalism and Democracy-UP chapter (CONTEND-UP), saying that instead of ensuring peace and order, the police greeted their legitimate demands with truncheons.

For his part, Catalan said he and his men tried to negotiate with the rallyists for a peaceful dispersal, but these became violent.

"My instructions were to impose maximum tolerance but they did not listen and did not want to leave the Senate premises," the Pasay police director said.

But CONTEND-UP vowed to conduct more protest rallies against SB 2587.

"No amount of intimidation and physical harassment will stop us from doing what is just," CONTEND-UP officials said during a press conference yesterday.

Unpaid debt ends in kidnapping suit

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

IT ALL began with an allegedly unpaid debt and ended with a man suing his cousins for kidnapping.

Yesterday, one of the suspected kidnappers was arrested by the police in a remote village in Caloocan City, nearly eight months after the alleged kidnapping.

The suspect, Salonga Romuros, 35, was arrested in Tala around 10 a.m. yesterday. But he denied the allegations that he, along with four others, kidnapped their relative, Sacar Pangaranao, last Feb. 1.

Pangaranao told the police he was released the following day after paying a ransom of P30,000.

But the arrested suspect said the ransom was actually a partial payment for the debt of Pangaranao's father to another relative, for which Romuros stood as a guarantor.

Romuros said that Pangaranao's father borrowed P70,000 from a common relative he named as a certain Oditan.

But since Pangaranao had not been paying his debt, Oditan turned to Romuros for the payment because he stood as the guarantor for Pangaranao's father.

Romuros said that when Pangaranao's father refused to pay, he asked Pangaranao to go in his house in Tala, Caloocan City, to talk about the debt. The following day Pangaranao paid P30,000, he added.

Romuros also said he was surprised when he was arrested yesterday, because all the while he thought his other cousins—the four other suspects in the alleged kidnapping—were settling the issue with Pangaranao's family.

He said his four other suspected cohorts were all in Zamboanga City, not knowing that they were being hunted for the allegations of kidnapping.

Romuros is now detained at the Caloocan City Police Headquarters while the police are still looking for the other suspects.

Cops shoot, 'plant' drugs on innocent man

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

First Couple to separate because of Mike Arroyo's supposed affair with another woman. *Para kang bakla niyan*, Mr. Congressman!

* * *

Ricardo Romualdo, 34, an electrician-mechanic who owns an auto repair shop, was having a nap when six policemen from Station 9 in Quezon City barged into his home.

The cops dragged him out of the room.

Romualdo resisted as he was insisting on his innocence. One of the cops shot him.

* * *

Romualdo's condition is critical.

The cops who barged into his home without a search warrant claim that he was arrested in a "buy-bust" operation.

They claim Romualdo is a drug pusher. They have produced a sachet of white powder supposedly confiscated from Romualdo.

* * *

But Romualdo's fellow barangay residents insist that he is a law-abiding citizen.

Some barangay officials swear that he has never been arrested by the police for any criminal offense. Romualdo is involved in civic work in his barangay, such as sponsoring a basketball league for the youth.

It was impossible, they say, for Romualdo to be pushing drugs since he's busy at work in his auto shop.

* * *

At first, the cops who arrested Romualdo said they entered his house because they received a report that a shabu-sniffing session was going on inside.

But they changed their story after they learned they would be in hot water for not having a warrant. So, they now claim that it was a "buy-bust" operation.

I have this feeling as a former police reporter that the cops are lying about Romualdo. They are destroying the reputation of a good man just so they could get off the hook

* * *

There's a new law that imposes the death penalty on law enforcers who "plant" drugs on innocent citizens.

Let's pray that those cops-PO3 Procopio Alquiza, PO2 Edgar Mendoza, PO2 Rey Cayabyab, PO1 Gollen Belen, PO1 Acusta and PO1 Ruperth Vergara—get their just desserts.

I am personally following up this case in my "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" program.

I hope those cops are given lethal injections!

* * *

LOOK how irresponsible and cowardly Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is. He starts an investigation of the "Jose Pidal" accounts, and then leaves his colleagues holding the bag by going to Australia.

He should have been at the Senate hearing on the Jose Pidal accounts when Iggy Arroyo, brother of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was grilled by his colleagues.

Ping Lacson could also have addressed impertinent questions to Iggy Arroyo.

* * *

Senators were put to shame Monday by a woman lawyer who lectured them on bank secrecy laws.

Fe Macalinao, chief legal counsel of Union Bank of the Philippines, told the honorable senators they were violating the same laws they passed by prying into the accounts of depositors.

As the young people in my generation would say: "You really socked it to them, Miss Macalinao!"

* * *

Iggy Arroyo's evading questions from senators about his financial capacity may have earned him minus points from a lot of people.

But many others also think he did right by invoking his right to privacy.

The First Gentleman's younger brother made it clear when he surfaced to claim he owned the "Jose Pidal" accounts that fear of kidnappers made him use an alias.

In the late 1980s, a kidnapping spree started in Cotabato, then spread to Metro Manila.

How did the kidnappers know their victims' capacity to pay? Through their contacts among bank employees.

Now, with Ping Lacson supposedly having access to the bank accounts of private citizen Jose Pidal, doesn't he raise suspicions?

* * *

There's a text message going around congratulating Ping Lacson for having acquired information on other people's bank accounts.

"We congratulate Ping Lacson for the second expose. *Galing ng kanyang* intelligence *sa mga* bank accounts. *Kaya pala alam niya kung sino ang kikidnapin*," says the text message which this writer has received 20 times. My friends say they have also received a similar text message.

Foul *naman kay* Ping *ang* text message *na yan*. I don't agree with it. Honest!

* * *

Most legislators think their lofty position gives them the license to pry into the private lives of citizens.

Look at Ping Lacson exposing the supposed liaison between Mike Arroyo and his accountant Vicky Toh. Even if it's true, it's none of his business.

Look at Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo telling the

Alpha Phi Beta fellowship meet

THE ALPHA Phi Beta Chancery is inviting all Alphans to its monthly fellowship meeting which has been moved from Sept. 12 to Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be at the Gabaldon Room of the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

Batch '73 Alphans will be hosting the gathering.

Mayors urge stand for peace and unity

MAYORS of Metro Manila yesterday called on the Filipino people to make a stand for peace, unity and democracy amidst the troubles currently confronting the nation.

Yesterday, after a press conference at the Pasay City Hall, they issued a one-page manifesto containing their message and urged "patriotic and peace-loving Filipinos" to attend a prayer rally for peace, unity and democracy that the league will hold at 3 p.m. tomorrow at the Quirino Grandstand.

Expected to attend the prayer rally are President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Among those who signed the manifesto were Metro Manila Mayors League president and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad, Makati City Mayor Jojo Binay, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel Aguilar, Pateros Mayor Rosendo Capco, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Malabon Mayor Amdao Vicencio and Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando.

Robbery on a bus? Send an SOS signal

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THERE'S a possibility distress signal devices would be installed on buses plying Metro Manila routes in a bid to stop bus robberies.

The National Capital Region Police Office and the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association said yesterday they were studying the possibility of installing such devices on buses.

These could be used by the bus drivers to alarm patrolling policemen in case something wrong is going on inside their buses.

However, police officials and IMBOA president Claire de la Fuente refused to give details on the planned distress signal devices so as not to give robbers any clue.

De la Fuente said they would form a program to train their drivers and conductors as well as the policemen how to use the distress signals.

The NCRPO officials met with the IMBOA representatives the other day to iron out the details in the memorandum of agreement, which the two parties plan to sign next week.

The agreement will formalize the random deployment of uniformed policemen on buses, which has already begun last week.

Part of the agreement is the deployment of policemen in civilian clothes and the installation of distress signal devices on buses.

And since the NCRPO said it could not deploy two-man police teams on all the more than 4,000 buses operating in the metropolis every day, the police would put up "staging points" along key roads to monitor the operations of the buses.

In the Northern Police District, bus detectives operate in teams of five members. NPD deputy director for operations Virgilio Espija said yesterday two policemen would be no match to robbery gangs which operate in groups of five up to 10 men.

'Real-time' data on air quality

By Volt Contreras

RESIDENTS and motorists in Metro Manila and nearby provinces may soon be able to get "real-time" data on just how dirty the air they breathe had become.

An official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday said 10 air quality monitoring stations will be put up in and around the capital next month.

Public electronic billboards fed with data from the stations will then flash real-time readings on the amount of toxic substances in the air per area, DENR Assistant Secretary Rafael Camat said.

The new billboards, Camat said, would be unlike those installed a few years back along Edsa and other key intersections which gave air quality reports that were actually "three to five days delayed."

"We can now obtain air quality measurements the way we get weather updates," Camat told the INQUIRER, adding that the readings will gauge the presence of specific substances in the air like lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, etc.

The DENR will launch on Oct. 1 the first two stations in Valenzuela and at the Ateneo De Manila campus, he said.

"This is one of the steps we are taking to measure our success in implementing the Clean Air Act, which has the goal of removing the smog in Metro Manila," Camat said.

METROBRIEFS

Bomb threat a dud

CLASSES were halted yesterday at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila, due to a bomb threat. Police said the school's security department received a call around 7:30 a.m. saying a bomb had been placed in one of the trash cans inside the school. A team from the Western Police District arrived there and scoured the school grounds up to 12 noon. No bomb was found, but classes remained suspended just the same. *Leila Salaverria*

Just food supplements

VARIOUS doctors' groups and manufacturers of ampalaya products have issued a joint statement saying ampalaya products are food supplements. The joint statement was issued to allay the fears of diabetics taking ampalaya food supplements and doctors who recommend them to their patients. Lito Abelarde, president of the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (Chipi), whose company produces Charantia, said that ampalaya products registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs Administration are labeled as food supplements with no approved therapeutic claims. "We have never promoted Charantia as anything else and absolutely never as a cure for diabetes for after all, diabetes is incurable," Abelarde said.

Gang member killed

A SUSPECTED member of the notorious "Bonnet Gang" was killed in an encounter with Taguig police the other night. The still unidentified suspect sustained multiple gunshot wounds and is described to be between the ages of 20 to 25 years old. SPO4 William Dam, commander of the Taguig police station 2, said they got a call around 1,1 p.m. informing them of a robbery case near the Blue Mosque on Mindanao Avenue. Responding policemen chanced upon six men wearing bonnets over their heads and who immediately tried to get away on board three motorcycles. The suspects then fired at the policemen, prompting the lawmen to fire back, killing one of the suspects. The others escaped. *Alcuin Papa*

Help from bus owners

BUS OPERATORS have pledged their support to the transport industry by offering their "personal" gas stations to jeepney drivers. Northeast Manila Bus Operators Group member Dodie Santos said that with the looming fuel price increase, volunteering their fuel at a discounted price would be their own way of helping the transport industry. Santos, who owns the Rainbow Express bus line, said he also owns and manages the Gas for Less station in Amparo, Caloocan, with his sister. The small gas station only offers diesel fuel, which was originally intended for their buses' use, Santos said. He added that jeepney drivers are welcome to refuel at his station. Santos said that while bigger oil companies sell their diesel fuel at P15.85 per liter, Gas for Less offers a pump price of only P15. *Margaux Ortiz*

PRAYER RALLY FOR PEACE, UNITY AND DEMOCRACY

A call to action to all patriotic and peace-loving Filipinos

3:00 PM, September 12, 2003, Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila

MANIFESTO

Our national life in the past months has been characterized by uncertainties, including upheavals coming from threats of terrorism, insurgencies, political destabilization attempts, a military mutiny and allegations of wrongdoing largely motivated by partisan political interests.

All these disturbances have threatened to rend the fabric of our democratic society and have also caused economic instability.

We are certain that these recent disturbing events do not have the support, much less the tacit approval of the great majority of the Filipino people.

If anything, what these developments accomplished is to create uncertainties and deep political divisions within our democratic institutions and among our country's leaders.

To make matters worse, all these have taken place at a time when what we need most is unity among our country's leaders so they could foster genuine national progress and create a better quality of life for our people.

We view such developments as clear and immediate threats to our democratic way of life, and we are sure that many Filipinos share our deep sadness and grave concern.

We the leaders of Metro Manila's cities and municipalities belonging to different political parties and having different political persuasions firmly believe that what we need right now is to set aside our partisan political agenda and interests and unite for the good of our country and our people.

Now more than ever, we as a people must show our patriotism by making a clear and unequivocal stand in defense of peace, unity and democracy in our country.

Let us show the whole world that we as Filipinos could overcome these challenges by uniting and working together for the national interest and supporting our national leaders, especially President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. This we have to do for the survival of democracy in our country and for the future of our children and generations of Filipinos to come.

We are therefore calling on everyone government leaders and employees, members of the business community, Filipinos of all religious persuasions, the youth as well as ordinary citizens, regardless of ideological and political beliefs to demonstrate their deep and abiding love for the Motherland by joining the ***PRAYER RALLY FOR PEACE, UNITY AND DEMOCRACY at 3:00 pm on Friday, September 12, 2003, at the Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila***.

With the guidance of the Supreme Being and with our collective efforts, we are confident that we will not fail.

September 10, 2003

METRO MANILA MAYORS LEAGUE

HON. JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City of Manila (President)

HON. JOSE EMMANUEL L. CARLOS
Valenzuela City (Vice President)

HON. MA. LOURDES C. FERNANDO
Marikina City (Secretary)

HON. SOLEDAD C. EUSEBIO
Pasig City (Treasurer)

HON. WENCESLAO B. TRINIDAD
Pasay City (Spokesman)

HON. VERGEL A. AGUILAR
Las Piñas City

HON. FELICIANO R. BELMONTE
Quezon City

HON. JEJOMAR C. BINAY
Makati City

HON. ROSENDO T. CAPCO
Municipality of Pateros

HON. JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Muntinlupa City

HON. REYNALDO O. MALONZO
Caloocan City

HON. JOEY P. MARQUEZ
Parañaque City

HON. TOBIAS REYNALD M. TIANGCO
Municipality of Navotas

HON. SIGFRIDO R. TIÑGA
Municipality of Taguig

HON. AMADO S. VICENCIO
Malabon City

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SPORTS

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Cantrell lifts TNT past FedEx rivals

By June Navarro

DAMIEN Cantrell registered a season-high 52 points capped by a long three-pointer that lifted Talk N Text to a pulsating 94-91 win over Federal Express last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The 6-foot-6 Cantrell unloaded the high-arching triple from way beyond the arc and over the outstretched arms of Terrence Shannon with 12.8 seconds left to clinch the Phone Pals' second straight victory in three games.

The Express had all the chance to send the game into overtime but Vergel Meneses missed a triple a few seconds before the final buzzer.

Shannon topscored for the Express with 28 points and had nine rebounds but his defensive lapse on Cantrell's three-pointer sent the Express to their second defeat in three outings

"It was just a simple play. All we wanted was to set up Damien (Cantrell) and get the ball in his hands," said coach Virgil Villavicencio, who took over as the third interim mentor of the Phone Pals after head coach Joel Banal went on leave to handle the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP.

Villavicencio added that the 6-foot-4 Cantrell, who also accounted for 10 of the team's 14 offensive rebounds, had the option to drive or shoot from afar

CANTRELL: Season-high 52

provided he makes the attempt with five ticks remaining on the shotclock.

Although Cantrell let fly his three-pointer with still ample time left on their clock, Villavicencio was all praise for the former University of California standout.

"It's fine. We took the risk since we have a foul to give on the next play," said Villavicencio, whose last coaching stint was with the 1999 Wilkins Distilled Water squad in the Philippine Basketball League.

Villavicencio took over from American coach Bill Bayno, who pitched in for the suspended Ariel Vanguardia for two games. Vanguardia, Banal's deputy, is serving a five-game suspension as a result of a controversial TNT-Coca-Cola match in the Invitationals last month.

Earlier, University of Manila toyed with Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 109-65, in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities, a league allowed by the PBA to hold its games before its regular doubleheader schedule.

Ricky Price scored eight of Barangay Ginebra's last 10 points as the Gin Kings turned back Red Bull Barako, 99-96, in the second game.

The Gin Kings remained unbeaten after three games and fortified their hold of the solo lead in Group B. The Thunder dropped to 1-2.

Scores:

First Game

TALK N TEXT 94— Cantrell 52, Carey 17, Taulava 13, Alapag 5, Pablo 5, Ravena 2, Locsin 0, Fran 0, Telan 0, Belano 0.

FEDEX 91 —Shannon 28, De Ocampo 16, Ferriols 14, Billones 10, Meneses 7, Codinera 6, Yap 5, Ritualo 5, Rodriguez 0, Arboleda 0.

Quarters: 16-23, 49-all, 75-77, 94-91.

Second Game

GINEBRA 99—Price 21, Limpot 19, Caguioa 15, Menk 11, Salvacion 9, David 9, Crisano 7, Adducul 5, Dimaunahan 3, Tolomia 0.

RED BULL 96—Lloyd 19, Harp 17, Pennisi 13, Torion 11, Miller 10, Tugade 7, Villanueva 5, Robinson 4, Asaytono 4, Reyes 3, Villoria 3, Se 0, Valenzuela 0.

Quarters: 22-29, 49-39, 68-78, 99-96.

No Witches, Wackos or Wigs!

I didn't waste my time on exotic potions, charismatic healers or ill-fitting wigs. As a balding man, my choice of a hair & scalp center was simple: Svenson International. For over 22 years, the Svenson experts have been looking after the needs of Filipinos suffering from the frustrations of hair loss. The Svenson treatments are proven to eliminate Dihydrotestosterone, the main source of hair loss, and to help hasten the hair regrowth process. Their advanced non-surgical hair replacement re-creates your hair's natural look, feel and thickness. Call us today at Svenson International and book your FREE CONSULTATION where we will attend to all your hair loss and baldness concerns.

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DRINK MODERATELY

Athlete

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT is an athlete?

He is one consumed by the will to win, not to whine. A whiner never wins, and a winner never whines. A winner never whines when cash rewards don't come his way after his victory. To him, victory is his reward. Pocket-fattening windfalls are but gravy.

When can one begin to feel like an athlete?

The moment he starts to think he can excel. If one thinks first of fame instead of excellence in his chosen sport, he is no athlete. He is fashion show stuff. He ought to march down the ramp instead of joining the camp for the spartan training at the break of dawn. He should apply cosmetics and not rubbing alcohol, if not skin block or omega pain killer.

They say there are two kinds of athletes—the one who wins and the one who loses.

I disagree. There is only one athlete—the one who thinks of giving it his best shot at all times. Even the loser is a winner because he has given it his all. It's just that at times his best is not enough. The winner and the loser, they are one and the same. That is why the winner is loved as much as the loser. One without the other is useless. Do you not often see scenes wherein the winner hugs the loser at the end of the contest? That is not only proof of sportsmanship. That is also the winner's way of telling the vanquished: "Hey, without you, I wouldn't be champion. Thanks, buddy!"

I applaud the champion as much as I applaud the loser. It comes from the assumption that the two of them had done their best to outwit, outfight, outlast each other. You salute the winner but at the same time cheer the loser. To me, the bull deserves equal praise as the matador.

The bull is the perfect embodiment of an athlete: it plods on unmindful of the risks that lie ahead.

The bull's chances of winning are both slim and none. It is not aware of that. It is only aware that it has to win the contest. Its desire for triumph is utterly insatiable.

The bull's not fighting to survive; in its heart and mind, it is fighting to beat the matador, to win at all costs. Its will to succeed is powered by its passion to give it its best shot, driven only by one thought: to excel, to be better than all of those in the corrida, including the harmless horse.

Every contest is a celebration of humanity. Both winner and loser, they are part of that celebration. For they are both of the same mold: care is their incentive, not cash. They care to win, not cash in on their victory to pocket wads of bills. They answer to the calling athlete because their zeal for excellence—as evinced by Eric Buhain, the total swimming wonder of yore—is beyond equal. Beyond even financial bonanzas.

If those chosen to go to the Vietnam SEA Games fit the description above, good luck. Wear it as a badge of honor. Not everybody can be honorable.

The applause is all I can offer. Take it with pride. It comes from one whose dream had been to become an athlete but was too sickly and skinny to even pass for one. I guess I was fated to write about you, guys and dolls. And since the day I started acting as one, I guess I've never been remiss in my credo to give it my best shot all the time.

Still do.

☆☆

FASTBREAK. My Auntie Glory (Gloria Soriano vda. Novera) died on Monday and her body lies at Claret, Teachers Village, Diliman, Q.C. A retired teacher at P. Gomez Elementary School near Zurbaran in Manila, Auntie Glory was the sister of my mother. Childless, Auntie Glory adopted my sister, Cely, when Cely was barely weeks old. Auntie Glory and her husband, the late Leon Novera of Dagupan City, had Cely baptized at St. Joseph's Church in Project 2 in March 1953. Since she was raised in Manila and yours truly in the province, my bonding with Cely, who was born on Aug. 10, 1952, in Rosales, Pangasinan, began only when I entered college. Even after Cely had gotten married, she was always close to Auntie Glory, the mother she had known from babyhood and whom she endearingly called "Mamang Glory." Auntie Glory was 78. Burial is on Sunday, Sept. 14, after the 8 a.m. Mass, at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Q.C.

Knights, Stags forge 'NC' title showdown

By June Navarro

LETRAN and defending champion San Sebastian upheld their 1-2 status by pulling off contrasting victories yesterday to forge a showdown for the 79th NCAA basketball championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Knights leaned on Boyet Bautista and Jonathan Aldave to turn back the Mapua Cardinals, 72-66, while the Stags, gunning for a third straight title, dominated the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers in the second half to win, 81-73.

Game 1 of the best-of-three series starts on Sept. 17.

The last time Letran and SSC fought for title was in 1998 when the Knights, also coached then by Louie Alas, prevailed.

Bautista shot a three-pointer and came up with a steal in the closing seconds as Letran, the top team in the eliminations, finally beat Mapua for the first time in three meetings.

The heroics of the pint-sized Bautista preserved a fiery show by Aldave midway in the last quarter that gave the Knights a decisive 65-60 lead with three minutes left.

"I told him (Aldave) that he's due for a big game and he responded to the challenge," said Alas. "The law of averages caught up with them. We were outhustled in those games and we made some adjustments in defense," he added.

After nailing a booming triple that halted the Cardinals' last-ditch rally, Bautista swiped the ball from Mapua's Nat Cruz with 32 seconds left to seal the Knights' return trip to the Finals since 1999.

Earlier, Aldave drained nine straight points capped by a three-pointer as the Knights, who trailed by as much as 10 points in the first half, asserted themselves down the stretch.

Alas said the win was important for his career.

"After my PBA stint, I was really down. I even felt that I don't know how to coach anymore. But this win definitely boosted my confidence," said Alas, who was successful in the now defunct MBA but a big failure in the PBA for Mobiline, now Talk N Text.

Alas left Letran in the hands of Binky Favis, who guided the Knights to the 1999 title over Jose Rizal.

The Knights played catchup for most of the first half as frontliners Eric Rodriguez, Jonathan Pinera and skipper Ronjay Enrile fell into early foul trouble.

Ren Vicente scattered 19 points for the Stags, who took control of the game after taking a 62-53 lead in the third period.

In the juniors division, the Mapua Red Robins overpowered the College of St. Benilde Greenies, 82-77, to set up a knockout match against the Letran Squires for the right to meet the San Beda Red Cubs in the Finals.

MAPUA's Nat Cruz (middle) loses his balance as he battles Letran's Jonathan Pinera (11) and Frederick Rodriguez for ball possession. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Second Game (Srs):

LETRAN 72—Bautista 14, Enrile 14, Aldave 13, Rodriguez 12, Reyes 7, Pinera 5, Aban 4, Realista 2, Santos 1, Fedelicio 0, Anabo 0.

MAPUA 66—Dula 18, Guevarra 13, Martin 9, Cruz 8, Gorospe 6, Sumalinog 5, Salud 3, Malig 3, Gonzales 1, Veranga 0, Migraso 0, Co 0, Lee 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 23-21, 35-40, 51-48, 72-66.

Third Game (Srs)

SSC 81 — Vicente 19, Moore 14, Uy 10, Najorda 10, Rebuya 9, Baluyot 8, Gonzales 7, Maneclang 2, Aguilar 2, Lim 0, Legarda 0.

JRU 73 — Fajardo 18, Santos 15, Coyukang 13, Borboran 12, Te 7, Domangcas 3, Altunaga 3, Lindaya 2, Jorge 0, Paule 0, Serios 0, De Vera 0.

Quarters: 18-21, 41-39, 62-53, 81-73.

FEU, UE try to boost 'twice' bids

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	10	3
FEU	9	3
UE	8	3
La Salle	7	5
Adamson	5	7
UST	4	7
NU	3	10
UP	2	10

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—Adamson vs FEU (srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UE (srs)
6 p.m.—UST vs UE (jrs)

BANAL

ZAMAR

FAR EASTERN and University of the East try to bolster their respective bids for the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four when they go up against unpredictable rivals today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

The second-running Tamaraws (9-3) clash with the Adamson Falcons (5-7) at 1:30 p.m., while the Warriors (8-3) meet the Santo Tomas Tigers (4-7) at 4 p.m.

"We cannot afford to take it easy. Every win will count," said UE coach Boyzie Zamar. The Red Warriors edged the Tigers, 73-69, in the first round but Zamar cautioned his charges not to become complacent.

FEU mentor Koy Banal also said the Adamson game will not be easy. The Tamaraws shot down the Falcons, 57-53, in the first round.

"Adamson is very much capable of winning," said Banal.

A loss is going to be disastrous for FEU and UE in their bid for the twice-to-beat edge given to the 1-2 finishers at the end of the double round robin eliminations.

Leader Ateneo (10-3) automatically gets the top spot if it repeats over rival La Salle on Saturday, leaving UE and FEU to fight it out for the number two spot.

In this scenario, Ateneo will then meet the number four team, most probably La Salle in the Final Four. UE and FEU will renew their rivalry in the other semifinal pairings.

Despite getting inconsistent games from main man James Yap, UE is proving to be a tough nut to crack with heady performances from Olan Omiping, Jayar Estrada, Dean Paolo Hubalde, Paul Artadi and Arnold Booker.

Dennis U. Eroa

PBL sets 2-day Aspirants Camp

THE COUNTRY'S rising cage stars will showcase their talents in the PBL Aspirants Camp slated Sept. 22-23.

Commissioner Chino Trinidad has expressed confidence that the camp will be as fruitful as the previous editions, saying: "This is the best avenue where we can discover new talents and I'm sure we can develop future stars from this camp."

"This is just an appetizer for our fans since we will be holding the Second Conference a month later," added Trinidad. "Players from the UAAP, NCAA and other college leagues have been calling us so it's going to be exciting."

Trinidad, however, emphasized that the Rookie Camp is not only for collegiate players but also for other cagers aiming to make it big in the sport.

The venue of the Aspirants Camp has yet to be finalized but the deadline for the submission of application is set on Sept. 19.

For details, contact the PBL office at 899-8671/8976383.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games-Rockets vs Sonics, Game 7, 1993 Western Semifinals; 7 a.m., Solar Sports-It's Hakeem the Dream against the Ram Man as Houston and Seattle battle in this do-or-die game.

NBA Summer League-Spurs vs Celtics, 10:30 a.m. (1-10 p.m.); Solar Sports-Defending champion San Antonio faces Boston in this summer special.

China vs Melbourne Tigers, 4:30 p.m. (r), ESPN-Watch if the Red Army can outlast their counterparts from down under.

FIBA Euro Basket 2003, 8 p.m. Solar Sports-Serbia and Montenegro battles undefeated Lithuania in the quarterfinals.

TENNIS: Swedish Open 2003, 3 p.m.; Solar Sports-Tennis action continues in Sweden.

GOLF: Wachovia LPGA Classic, 1 p.m.; ESPN-See who claims victory as the final round goes underway

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

SPORTSWATCH

Yao denies rumors

BEIJING—Basketball sensation Yao Ming said reports that he is plagued with high blood pressure are "greatly exaggerated," as China Wednesday prepared for a possible matchup against archrival South Korea at the Asian Basketball Championships. "As I'm sure many of you have heard, it's been reported that I have high-blood pressure," said the 22-year-old, 7-foot-6 Yao in a statement posted on the Hoopsworld.com website. The rumors, Yao said, came during a non-stop three-week tour of China with the national team last month, where he played matches every other day in cities throughout the country, including Hong Kong. *AFP*

Kobe Bryant case

EAGLE, Colorado—Kobe Bryant's attorneys want his accuser to testify at next month's hearing that will determine whether the NBA star will stand trial on a sexual assault charge. Bryant is charged with assaulting the woman, who worked at the mountain resort lodge where he stayed June 30. The Los Angeles Lakers guard has said the two had consensual sex. Defense attorneys Pamela Mackey and Hal Haddon issued a subpoena to the woman to have her appear at the Oct. 9 preliminary hearing, prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said Tuesday. *AP*

Biñan derby today

MORE than 150 small-time cockers and breeders are seeing action in today's "2-Cock Timbangan Derby" at the Biñan Coliseum in Biñan, Laguna, beginning at 3 p.m. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P300,000, according to hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who are fresh from promoting the 124-entry Pasay Cockpit 4-cock deby. Entry fee is P3,300 while minimum bet is P2,200. Registration will be held today from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Backing the derby are promoters Monching Carillo and Blitzen Espeleta. Interested parties may contact BSC at (049-5119400); Aba Badiola (0918-5030528); Kags Paliza (0918-9251121) or Paulo (0916-2547421). Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer and Sagupaan Mite Free Sham-

'Sagupaan' tilt on tap

THE 3RD Annual Sagupaan 5-Stag Derby, a certified crowd-drawer of Pampanga Coliseum, will be staged on Sept. 17 (Wednesday). Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Patrick Antonio, derby host, said the guaranteed prize at stake is P500,000. Screening, leg banding and weigh-in will be held on the day of the derby, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon only. Derby starts at 5 p.m. Stags banded by reputable breeders organizations will be accepted subject to re-screening. Desired weights are from 1.7 kg to 2.2 kg.

Roligon tourney up

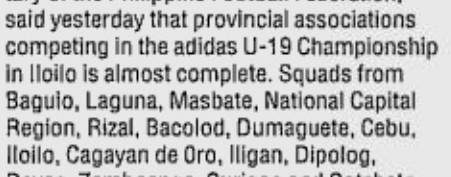
A TOTAL of 150 entries are expected to compete in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby" on Sept. 16, 18 and 20. Entry fee in the meet hosted by Rolly Ligon is P6,600 while guaranteed prize is P1.2 million. All two pointers during the elimination rounds (Sept. 16 and 18) will share in the P70,000 prize per day, while P20,000 will go to the fastest kill winner. The fastest kill champion on Sept. 20 will get P70,000. Stags banded by screeners Mimi Itchon and Danny Ty for the "Showdown" derby may also be fielded, Ligon said.

Iloilo hosts U-19 football

DOMEKA Garamendi, deputy general secretary of the Philippine Football Federation, said yesterday that provincial associations competing in the adidas U-19 Championship in Iloilo is almost complete. Squads from Baguio, Laguna, Masbate, National Capital Region, Rizal, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Dipolog, Davao, Zamboanga, Surigao and Cotabato have signified their readiness for the event set Oct. 3-9 in La Paz and Sta. Barbara.

Woodrose prevails

MONICA Santos, striker for Woodrose School, locked on a left wing pass by Pat Loanzon and blasted the ball pass the keeper halfway through the second half to seal Woodrose's 2-0 victory over the University of Asia and the Pacific in the opener of the 1st UA &P Inter-Collegiate Women's Futsal tournament at the UA &P covered court in Pasig City. The Woodrose girls of coach Poten Fernandez opened up the scoring through Loanzon. Polytechnic University thrashed Miriam High School 13-0; St. Scholastica's beat Assumption 3-1; and Miriam College nipped Colegio de San Agustin, 2-1, in the other opening day matches.



AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Doctor Ben 2. Kool Ka Lang 3. Magic Dancer 4. Hector's Dream 5. Rosa Mystika

Race 2--1. Cat's Eye 2. Clarize 3. Doña Gelay

Race 3--1. Earl Gray 2. King Rick 3. Rosewood 4. Ann's Magic

Race 4--1. Zero Gravity 2. Scene Stealer 3. Magic Bullet 4. Wind Star 5. Sand Splash

Race 5--1. Strong Colony 2. Extreme Illusion 3. Hazitmade

Race 6--1. Pride of Mandaue 2. Peek A Boo 3. Sham Sham 4. Night Flight 5. Pep Talk

Race 7--1. Rose and Toy 2. Cash Position 3. Words of Joy 4. Live Show 5. D Greatest

Race 8--1. Happy Again 2. Ocean Magic 3. Trail Blazer 4. Silver Cho Cho

Race 9--1. Strong Lady 2. Savvy Lad 3. E-Mail 4. Bridegroom 5. Elusive Quality 6. Joshua Tree

Iraq, Cambodia joining Asian trackfest here

Iraq and Cambodia sent word yesterday they are joining the 15th Asian Athletics Association championships slated Sept. 20 to 23 at the newly refurbished Rizal track and field stadium.

Dr. Sate Ismaeil, secretary general of the Iraqi Amateur Athletic Federation, had faxed Iraq's confirmation to the organizing Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association through Maurice Nicholas, 3As permanent secretary treasurer.

Iraqi athletics president Dr. Taleb Faisal AlSafar will head the contingent.

Patafa president Go Teng Kok also announced that Yem Oddom, secretary general of the Khmer Amateur Athletic Federation, had confirmed through another fax message the participation of a Cambodian team.

Still being awaited is the final confirmation from Bhutan.

Go said he has given up on North Korea but noted that newly reinstated Afghanistan is sending a delegate to the Congress on Sept. 19.

Of the 43 countries in the registry, Japan is fielding the biggest team with 91 athletes, coaches and officials followed by China with 70. India is next with 70 followed by Qatar 69, Saudi Arabia 58 and Sri Lanka 53.

Among the SEAG members, Thailand has the biggest delegation with 48 followed by Singapore 36, Vietnam 25, Malaysia 21, Indonesia 14, Brunei 6, Laos 4, Cambodia and Myanmar 3.

Among the former USSR republics, Kazakhstan has 40 entries with Uzbekistan fielding 20, Kyrgyzstan 13, Turkmenistan 5 and Tajikistan 3.

Tablenet meet set

THE FIRST LG Table Tennis Age-Group invitational championships reel off Sept. 16 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) president Vic Balbuena said around 700 players are expected to vie for top honors in various divisions of the event.

The two-day qualifying round will be on Sept. 14-15 at the Rizal Memorial Complex.

Dumandan seizes lead

SILANG, Cavite—Local bet Marvin Dumandan birdied the 16th and 17th holes for a 2-under-par 70 yesterday and grabbed the lead after the third round of the 2nd Riviera Amateur Open golf championship here.

Dumandan, the No. 3 man of the RP team that placed fifth in the Nomura Cup in Australia last week, broke par for the first time in three days and took a one-stroke lead over Korean Lee Seong Ki with a 215 aggregate.

Lee held his ground with a 216 total after 54 holes following a second sub-par round in three days— a 1-under 71— at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Juvic Pagunsan, the leader in the first two rounds, dropped four strokes in the last two holes for a 76 that brought him down to third at 218.

He still had a two-shot lead over Dumandan when he teed off on the par-3 17th, but made a triple bogey 6. Obviously shaken, he then bogeyed the last hole.

Jerome Delariarte, the back-to-back national amateur champion, turned in his best score in three days of 74 but remained 12 strokes behind Dumandan at 227 in a tie with another Korean Kim Chang Hoi who shot a 76.

Rudy Amata (76) and Danny Pizarro (79), meanwhile, took the lead in Class A and the seniors divisions, respectively, of the tourney sponsored by Transnational Diversified Group, Mizuno, Pacsports, Wide Wide World Express and Handog Industrial Corp.

Phillip Judan, the Class B champion, started his quest for a rare double by staying in fourth place, seven shots off Pizarro.

Dumandan and his Nomura Cup teammates Pagunsan and Delariarte will be playing in the final foursome today along with Lee.

The fourth Nomura Cupper, Jay Bayron, who is also the defending champion, was way behind in the standings despite his strongest round in three days of 76.

Bayron stood in eighth place at 231. He trailed joint sixth placers Dave Hernandez (77-230) and Michael Bibat (76-230) by a stroke.

US runner to lose medals

LONDON—Track and field's governing body says American sprinter Kelli White should be stripped of her two gold medals from the World Championships. Now it's up to US anti-doping officials to comply.

The International Association of Athletics Federations ruled Tuesday that White committed a doping offense when she tested positive for a stimulant and should lose her world titles in the 100 and 200 meters.

The IAAF rejected White's explanation that she took the stimulant for a sleep disorder and sent the case to the US Anti-Doping Agency for a hearing and disciplinary action.

The IAAF made clear it expects US authorities to remove White's medals.

"The proper sanction under IAAF rules will be a public warning and disqualification from the competition concerned," IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said.

If the IAAF isn't satisfied with the US action, the international body would take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. *AP*

San Mig stars set busy road tour

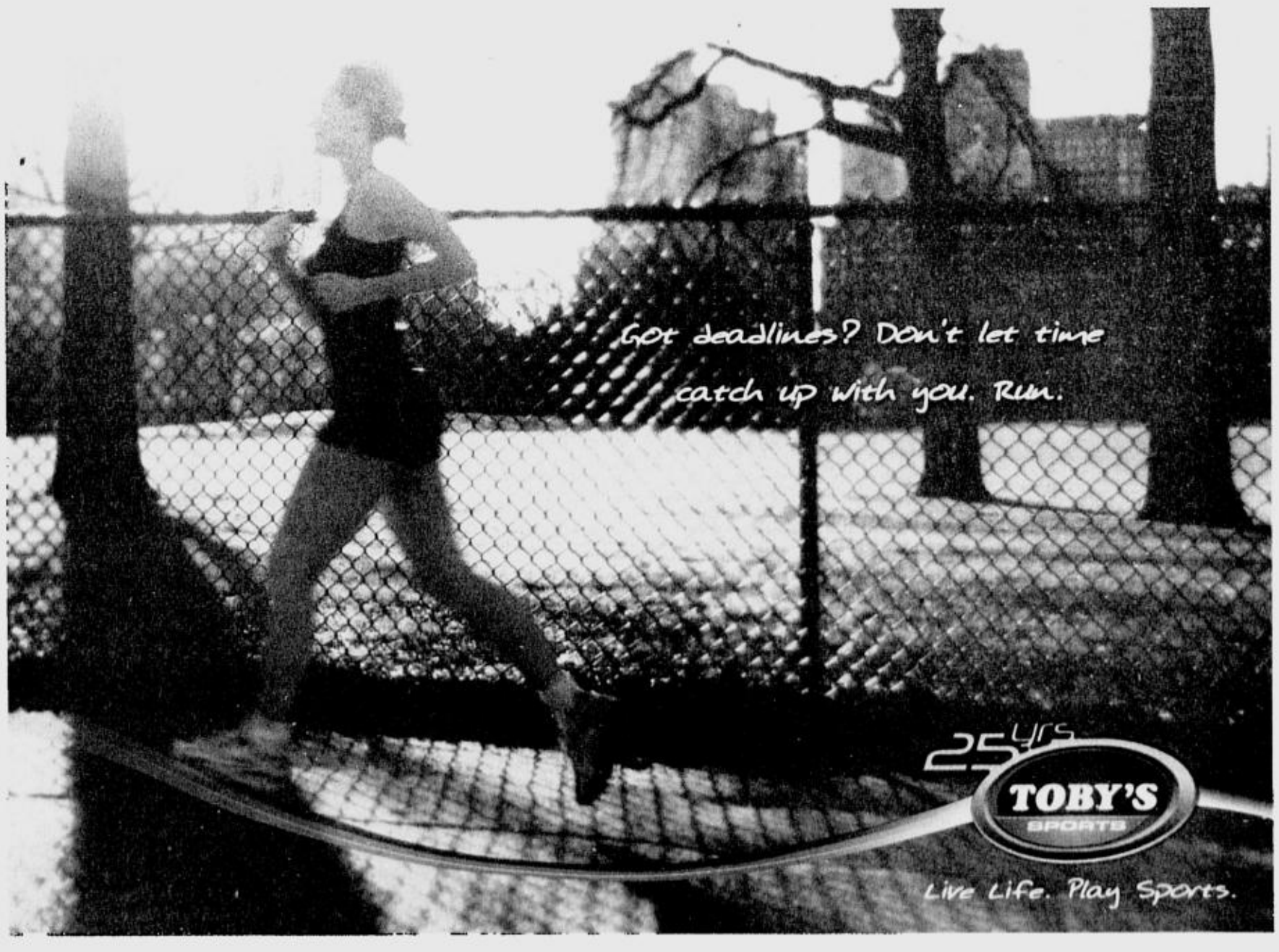
THE SAN Miguel Corporation Basketball Goodwill Circuit featuring former PBA players is set to conduct cage clinics as far as Ilocos Norte up north and Davao del Sur down south this month.

Project director Eric Altamirano is heading the San Miguel All Stars whose exhibition games and clinics have been drawing raves from fans all over the country.

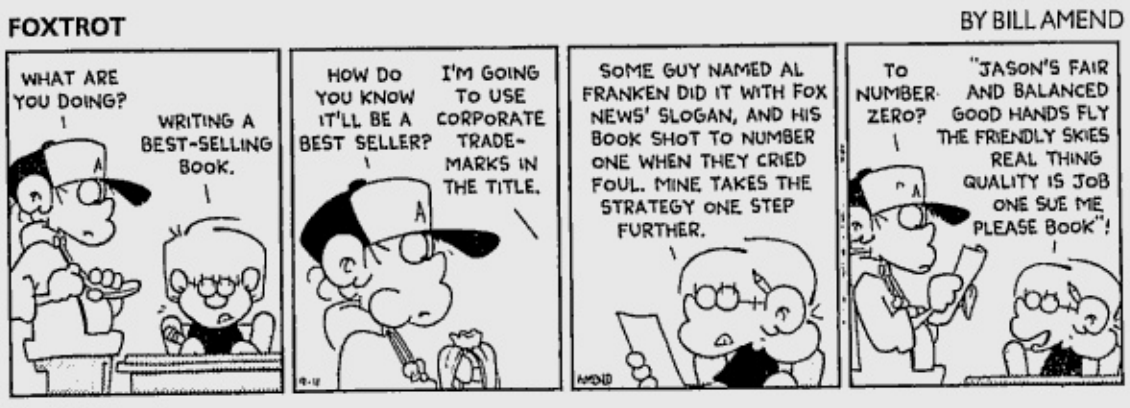
To spread the gospel of basketball, the All-Stars conduct clinics for youngsters known as the "Skill Builder Hoop Camp." For aspiring bench tacticians, Altamirano conducts coaching clinics wherein he gives away free instruction handouts as well.

Next week, these basketball ambassadors of goodwill are scheduled to delight Bais City crowds in Negros Oriental for a Sept. 15-17 appearance. In a separate foray in the north, they will proceed to Ilocos Sur on Sept. 19-21 on the invitation of former Gov. Chavit Singson.

Other scheduled stops for the month include an exhibition game in Basilig City, Surigao del Sur and a three-day tour of Iligan City for its Sept. 28-30 "Kasadyahan Festival."



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



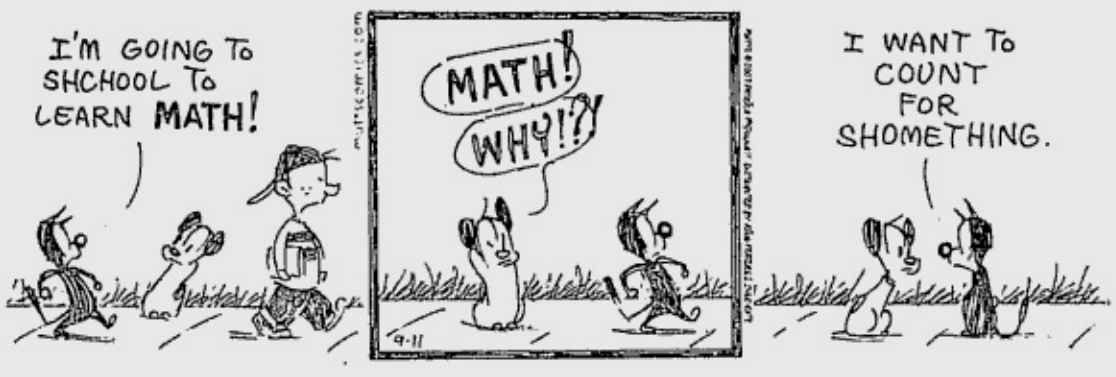
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

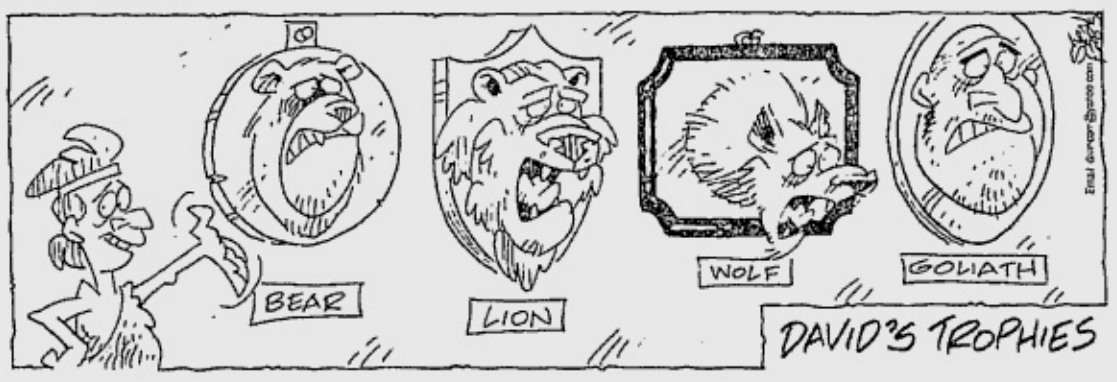
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are dramatic and free-spirited. Basically, you do whatever you want to do. You believe strongly in individual choice. In your closest relationships, you are caring and nurturing. You have a great love of children and can be an excellent parent. Expect increased solitude in the year ahead, because you have something important to learn.
Birthdate of: Harry Connick Jr., singer; Moby, musician; O. Henry, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Power struggles with people at work today are highly likely. You are convinced you are right about something. Unfortunately, somebody else is equally convinced of the opposite.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's important to keep an open mind issues today, especially those regarding children or romantic exploits. Your tendency will be to become obsessed with one idea.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make sure that someone does not try to force his or her point of view on you today, or that you do not do likewise. Some people want to coerce others into agreeing with them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Avoid arguments with siblings and daily contacts today. You don't need to prove anything. If you discover secrets, try to be discreet about them.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You want to buy something so much that you feel obsessed about it. If you think about it, it's not good to make important purchases in this frame of mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't try to force your point of view on other people today, even if you think it is important to make them see your side. And don't let anybody else do this to you, either.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Secrets and private matters might be revealed today. In another vein, this can be a good day for research, study and searching for answers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with friends or groups are pushy and aggressive today. However, if you are calm, this will not happen. Resist the urge to jump in and get involved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Bosses and authority figures might try to lay down the law today. If so, do not resist. Wait until later in the week to show your true colors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to study subjects that deal with hidden aspects, such as psychology, magic or mental development. You want to know what is under the surface of things.

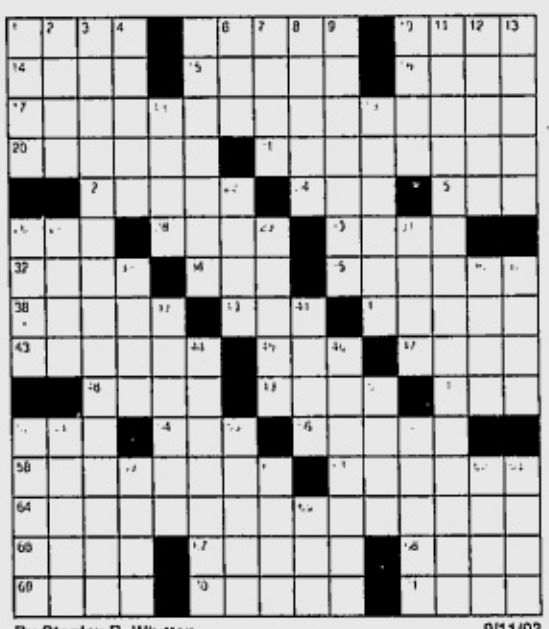
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a fabulous day for introspection, research and study. Your ability to reveal hidden information and discover secrets is uncanny today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid power struggles with partners and bosses today. It's just not worth it. It's simply an exercise in control. Later in the week, all this will look silly.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Wanes
5 Test score
10 Iowa State location
14 Dark, rich soil
15 Jacket piece
16 Back of the neck
17 Three trees
20 Sanctuary
21 Alerted
22 Chorus section
24 Double DI
25 Superman's letter
26 Prohibit
28 Tallow material
30 Largest of seven
32 Cambodian cash
34 Crude
35 Thuribie
38 Off-the-cuff comment
40 Kid
42 Likeable loser
43 Greek letters
45 Letters for Republicans
47 Mine entrance
48 Breathe heavily
49 Categorize
51 Mine find
52 Fauna display
54 Basker's aim
56 Market town
58 Begged
61 Roams stealthily
64 Three trees
66 Chelsea carnage
67 React to a bad pun
68 Mozart opera, "__ fan Tutti"
69 Gillette blade
70 Increase suddenly
71 Earthly paradise

DOWN
1 Isle near Corsica
2 Long scarves
3 Three trees
4 Miniature
5 Fashion magazine
6 Knock
7 Sacred bull
8 Jeans material
9 Funereal
10 Latin handle
11 Three trees
12 Fencer's swords
13 Transmits
18 Off one's rocker
19 Plants with aromatic seeds
23 Cauterize
26 Boast
27 Verdi opera
29 Branchlets
31 Early Peruvian
33 Capital of Peru
36 Abu Dhabi ruler
37 Memorizing process
39 Breed of fowl
41 Ninnyhammer
44 German POW camps
46 Camp-stove fuel
50 Change direction
52 Mothers of Invention leader
53 '60s creative movement
55 Indian statesman
57 Philosopher Josiah
59 Thompson or Lazarus
60 Entrance
62 Zap with light
63 Body covering
65 Obstacle to free speech?



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
9/11/03

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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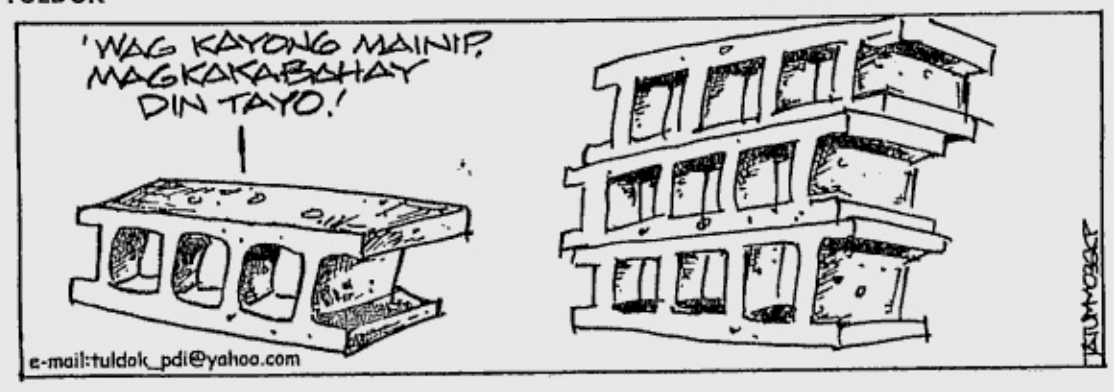
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Fiesta San Miguel offers fresh brews

FIESTA San Miguel, the first and only Filipino restaurant and bar offering freshly brewed San Miguel beer is now open to the public. Fiesta San Miguel is located at the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The two-level 1,200-sqm outlet offers fine dining at the first level which seats a hundred diners while the upper level with a seating capacity of 210 (including the private room and the veranda) is a trendy bar where the country's top bands and entertainers will perform nightly. Some of the performers in line are: Rowena Michaels and Marmalade (Mondays), May Bayot and Indio I (Tuesdays), Gina Oscaris and Route 70 (Wednesdays), Girl Valencia and Red Velvet (Thursdays), Maricris Cobbea and Parliament Syndicate (Fridays) and Guarana every Saturday.

Toasting for the success of Fiesta San Miguel at the Dusit Hotel Nikko microbrewery were (from left) the hotel's general manager Chiyuki Fujimoto; Danding Cojuangco, chair of the board, SMC; Philippine Hoteliers Inc president Chatrachai Bunya-Ananta; Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay; Khampi Suwaranat, director of Philippine Hotelier Inc; Ramon Ang, president, SMC and VP/GM of CKAG-SMC Daniel Javier.

Thai PM stays at Peninsula Manila

THE PENINSULA Manila was the hotel of choice of the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra, during his visit to the Philippines from Sept. 7 to 8.

The Thai Prime Minister was in Manila on a working visit to turn over four OV-10 Royal Air Force bombers to the Philippine government. Also, part of his agenda was to discuss ways of strengthening and expanding bilateral trade and the fight against international terrorism.

The Peninsula Manila general manager David Batchelor met Prime Minister Shinawatra during his stay at the hotel.

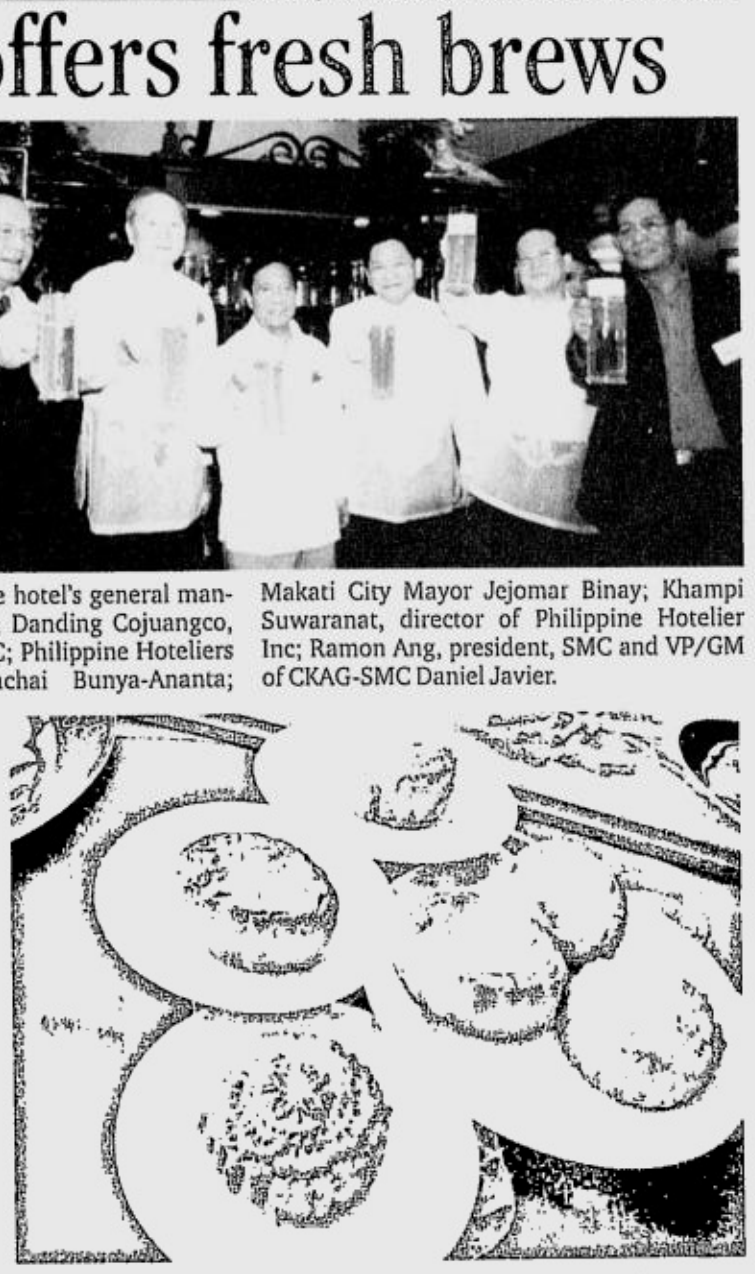
Journey under the sea

ALMOST all diving trips, especially for the novice, begin in Anilao, Batangas. It is home to more than 25 dive spots where rich coral reefs and various marine species flourish. With this, Barceló Eagle Point creates the Special Dive Package for guests to discover Anilao's underwater realm and its rich biodiversity.

The Special Dive Package includes accommodation within a serene rainforest atmosphere, breakfast, sumptuous lunch and dinner, two dives with tanks, free use of weight belts, one boat trip to the dive site, service of a Dive Master for the two dives, and use of common facilities of the resort. This limited offer is priced at only P2,990 per diver per night in a Cabana, a non-aircon cottage (based on twin and triple sharing) for a more closer feel of nature, and P3,990 per diver per night in a one-bedroom air-conditioned cottage (based on twin and triple sharing) which is valid until Nov. 15.

Located in a beautiful and natural site, Barcelo Eagle Point Resort lies along the tip of Calumpang Peninsula in the southern mouth of Balayan Bay in Mabini, Batangas.

For inquiries regarding the "Special Dive Package," you may call the Manila sales office at 813-3553 or 867-1159.



Delicious mooncake fest happening at Tin Gow

IN HONOR of the traditional Autumn Moon Festival, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino's Tin Gow chinese restaurant celebrates the ongoing Mooncake Festival. Running until Sept. 11, the festival will feature delicious mooncakes in a variety of flavors such as Snow Skin Lotus Paste, Snow Red Bean Paste, Custard and Pandan.

Mooncakes have played a central role in Moon Festival traditions wherein according to a Chinese legend, mooncakes helped bring about a revolution to end the Yuan Dynasty (AD 1280 - 1368) established by the invading Mongols. A Han Chinese rebel named Liu Fu Tong devised a scheme to arouse the Han Chinese to rise up against the ruling Mongolian leaders by putting messages inside the mooncakes.

Today, far from the exotic and heroic legends it was associated with, mooncakes are consumed all over the world during the traditional Autumn Moon Festival.

Come and savor the variety of mooncake and dim sum specialties at Tin Gow, especially prepared by the wondrous cooking styles of Chef Lim Chee Hoe. Handy boxes for mooncake to-go orders are available. Regular-sized mooncakes come in four pieces, while the mini-sized ones come in six pieces. For inquiries and reservations call Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino at 232-6888 local 8607 and 8608 or the Manila sales and reservations office at 687-0888.

Mooncakes helped bring about a revolution to end the Yuan Dynasty (AD 1280 - 1368)

Where to Stay / Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL
New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La
Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Shangri-La
Mactan Island Resort
Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

INTERCONTINENTAL
Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

THE MARCO POLO
The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

HOTEL VENIZ
Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

HOTEL SUPREME
Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18/ Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36/fax (074) 443-3897

THE PENINSULA MANILA
The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarin-oriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

WATERFRONT HOTEL & CASINO
Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

WATERFRONT
Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL
Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

the Golden Pine
Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
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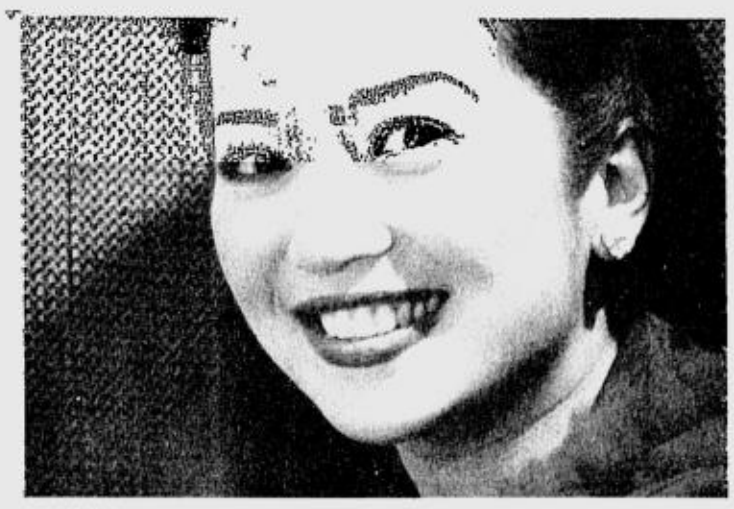
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Korina won't attend hearing; Kris will



AQUINO MIKE ALQUINTO

By Marinel R. Cruz

KORINA Sanchez, host of ABS-CBN's show biz talk show "Morning Girls with Kris and Korina," will not show up today in the congressional hearing on the culpability of broadcasting companies and broadcasters for what they say on air.

But Korina's co-host, Kris Aquino will attend the hearing.

Korina has asked the House of Representatives to be excused from today's hearing because she needs to attend to "pressing matters," according to an ABS-CBN official.

Kris will simply say during the hearing that the comment she made last July 31 on "Morning Girls" was not against Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez, who had asked for the investigation on the "irresponsible" acts committed by the two hosts.

After her attendance is acknowledged, Kris will ask to be excused from the proceedings, the ABS-CBN official said.

Martinez said Korina called her "bastos" during the July 31 episode of "Morning Girls" where she and Kris were commenting on the House hearing on the Oakwood mutiny.

Kris made a remark on the "less than respectful treatment" by Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya during the House hearing.

The episode has prompted the House committee on public information to conduct the hearing.

Korina and Kris were invited to the hearings last Aug. 20 and Aug. 22 but failed to show up.

Martinez had warned that she would take "legal action" against Korina if the broadcaster would not attend the next hearing. The lawmaker had also threatened to file the charges in Cebu to "inconvenience" Korina, who has the support of ABS-CBN and the National Press Club.

In two separate statements, the NPC and ABS-CBN have asked the House of Representatives to end the investigation.

NPC president Antonio Antonio said "the inquiry, if allowed to continue, would spell disaster to the press, individual journalists and the people at large."

He urged Martinez "not to abuse the processes of Congress for purely personal reasons."

ABS-CBN said the "investigation conducted by Congress is a violation of the constitutional freedoms of the press, speech and of expression."

The network argued that the power of the House of Representatives to conduct investigations is not absolute and that any investigation or inquiry it would conduct must be in aid of legislation.

"There have been two hearings on this matter and in both hearings, (Martinez) made it clear that her purpose in conducting the investigation is to undo the embarrassment that she and her family allegedly suffered because of (Sanchez's) utterances," the statement said.

"We thus implore the committee to end the investigation. If there are personal causes worthy of vindication, there are sufficient laws and processes for these."

Piolo Pascual jammed with soul siren Nina at Bagaberde in Pasig two Mondays ago. They sang "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang." After getting a grandslam for his role in Chito Roño's "Dekada '70," Piolo is also serious about his second career, singing.

Last year, he came out with a debut album from Star Records, which will soon have a follow up before the end of this year.

On Jan. 25, 2004, Piolo will have a major solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

DID YOU KNOW...

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: How do you think our team will do in international competitions?

Guest: I think we'll do well. We're practising hard, twice a day, daily!

Host: Every day 'yon?

Guest: Yes.

Host: So, how many times a week?

(*Kulit!*)

* * *

Host: What is the advantage of our boys over the teams of other countries?

Guest: We train them more in psychology.

Host: How's that?

Guest: In our training, we specialize more in training them thoughts.

(What about bending them bones and working them muscles?)

* * *

Host: And now, our contest winner will be announced.

Co-host: Yes, it's so exciting—it's the moment of the truth!

(*Sa totoo lang—!*)

* * *

Quizmaster: What do the initials LRT stand for—clue: it's a system of transportation.

Contestant: LRT ... LRT—LRT: Light Rail Tren!

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: What makes your restaurant unique?

Guest: For one thing, we have a modern approach to traditional cooking.

Host: How do you mean?

Guest: We foot the food in a flatter, for a change.

(Pantastic!)

* * *

Host: Are you looking forward to the sequel that you are about to see?

Guest: Oh, yes, I'm eager about the sequel to which we are about to see!

(You should have stopped at "Oh, yes"!)

* * *

Host: I hear you're running for office in next year's elections?

Guest: Yes, that's true.

Host: Why do you want to become a public servant.

Guest: Of course, for the sick of the people!

(Truer words were never spoken ...)

* * *

Host: What are you prepared to do to serve your constituents better?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Boob-tube booboos

From page A26

Guest: Anything. I will go out my way for them!

(Please—go out your way—now!)

Young male comedian to watch

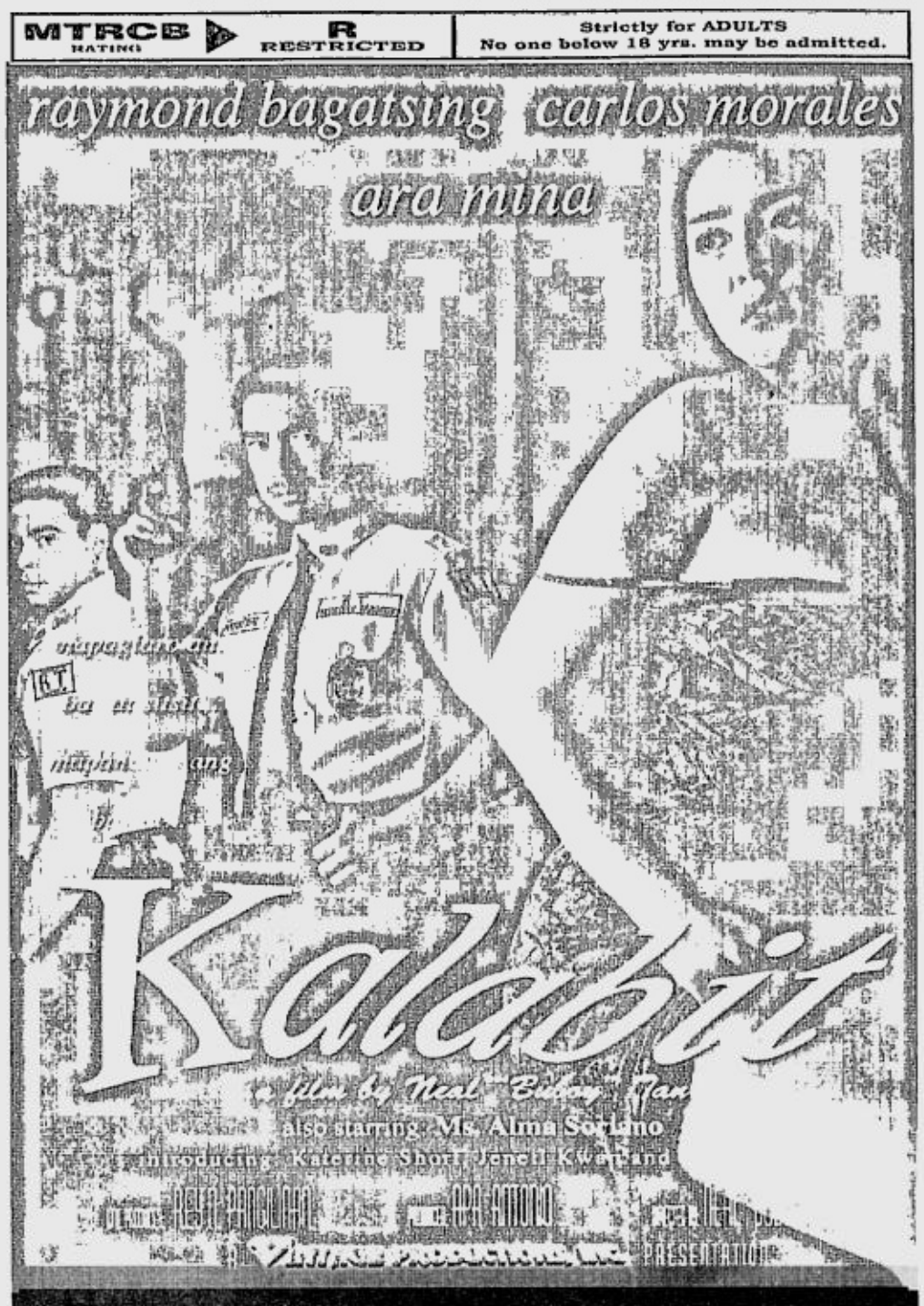
WE'RE happy to see that more people are joining us in hoping predicting? That **Vhong Navarro** makes it big in comedy this year.

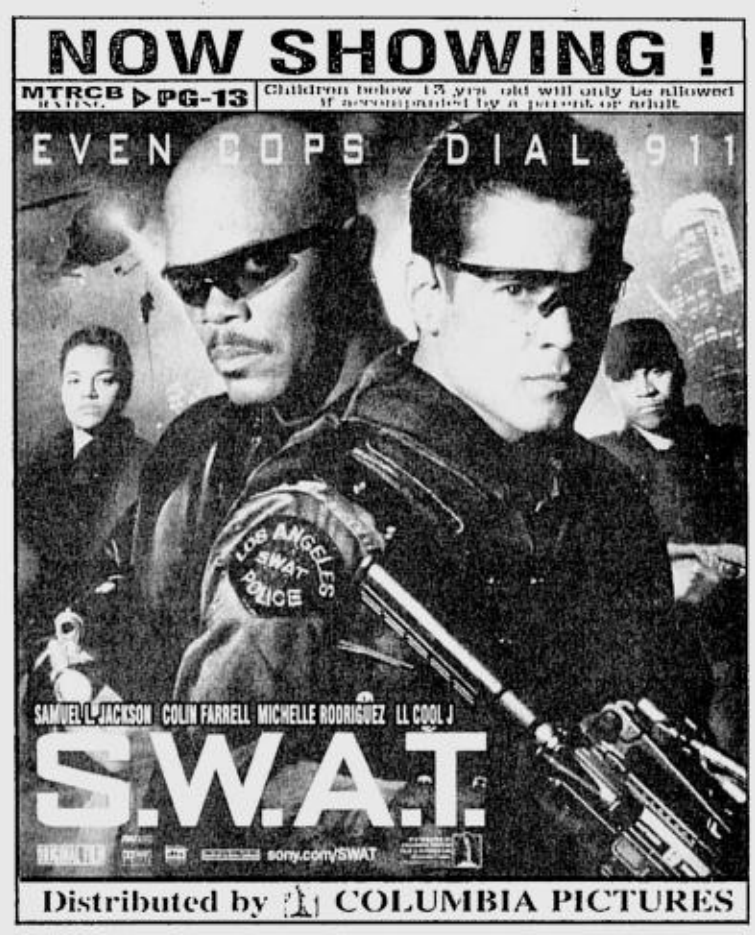
We got an inkling of Vhong's potential when we saw him playing a gay radio personality on a TV drama some months back. He went beyond merely playing a flaming faggot, to portraying the swishy program host as a three-dimensional character.

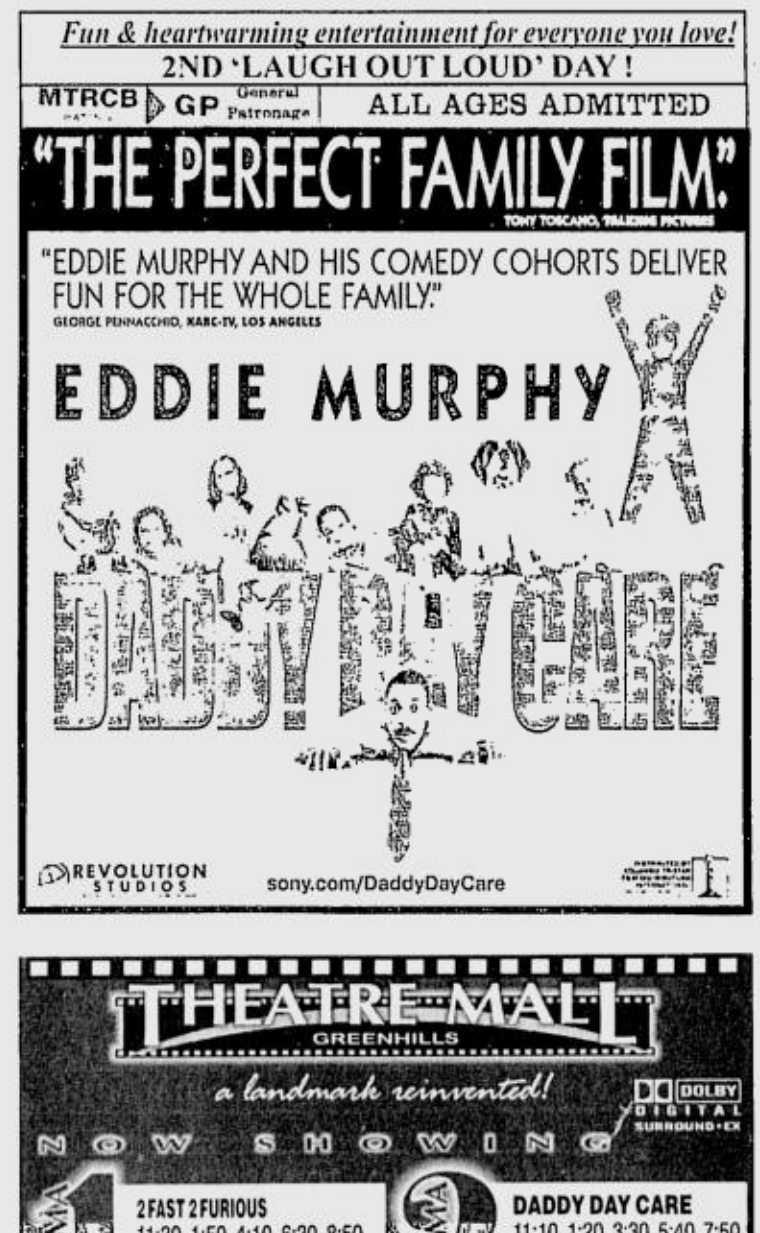
We saw traces of **Dolphy**'s light touch, versatility and sensitivity in Vhong's performance, and decided to keep an eye out for his next portrayals. Well, it looks like we'll be busy doing that, because Vhong appears to be making one movie after another:

Last month, he was in "Keka" as **Katya Santos**' neurotic bosom buddy. In "Pinay Pie," he's paired with **Joyce Jimenez**. In the current comedy, "Asboobs," he co-stars with **Eddie Garcia, Jeffrey Quizon** and other comics. And, in the prospective Metro filmfest entry, "Gagamboy," Vhong plays no less than the title role.

It's good that producers have realized that Vhong is the young male comedian to watch, and are showcasing him in interesting roles. Let's hope he doesn't blow it!







THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADOORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KALABIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ASBOOBS
B	KALABIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-3	KALABIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-6	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-8	SINBAD
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-15	

LORES

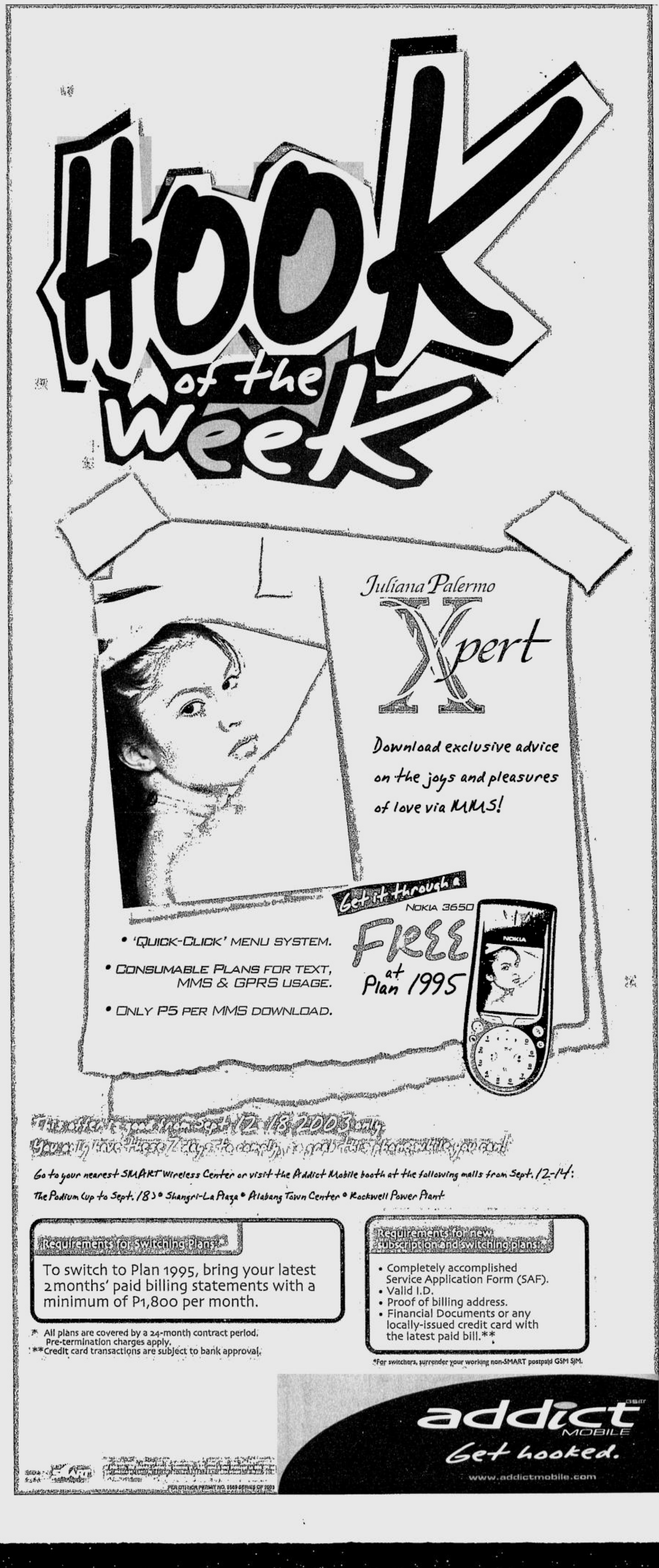
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	HEARTS OF THE CARIBBEAN
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-4	WWW XXX COM

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



SMART WIRELESS CENTERS

NORTH NCR WIRELESS CENTERS

CALOOCAN WIRELESS CENTER
277 EDSA near Gen Tinio St., Monumento Caloocan City

QUEZON AVENUE WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Universal Records Bldg, 1487 Quezon Ave.,Quezon City

CUBAO WIRELESS CENTER
Stall # 63 & 64 Fiesta Carnival, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

ROBINSONS NOVALICHES WIRELESS CENTER
3rd Level Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quirino Highway, Quezon City

SM NORTH EDSA WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Cyberzone Mall, Carpark Extension, SM North EDSA, Quezon City

ROBINSONS GALLERIA WIRELESS CENTER
Level 3 Robinsons Galleria, EDSA cor. Ortigas, Quezon City

STA. LUCIA WIRELESS CENTER
Level 3, Phase 3, Sta Lucia Grand Mall, Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal

VIRRAMALL WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Virra Mall Shopping Center, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

SM MEGAMALL WIRELESS CENTER
4/F Cyberzone Area, SM Megamall Bldg B, Mandaluyong City

PODIUM WIRELESS CENTER
5th Level, The Podium, ADB Avenue Ortigas Center

MANILA EAST WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Manila East Arcade Bldg., Manila East Road, Taytay, Rizal

SOUTH NCR WIRELESS CENTERS

BINONDO WIRELESS CENTER
572-574 Quintin Paredes, Binondo, Manila

SM MANILA WIRELESS CENTER
Level 4 SM Manila, Concepcion St., Cor. Arcenas & San Marcelino St., Manila

FESTIVAL MALL WIRELESS CENTER
Level 4 Center Hall Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa

SMART TOWER WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Smart Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

SM BICUTAN WIRELESS CENTER
2nd level Annex B Doña Soledad Avenue cor. West Service Road Bicutan, Parañaque City

SM SOUTH MALL WIRELESS CENTER
2nd Level Cyberzone Area SM Southmall, Alabang Zapote Rd., Pamplona, Las Pinas

GREENBELT WIRELESS CENTER
2/F Fairmart, Greenbelt, Makati City

ATC WIRELESS CENTER
2nd Floor New Wing Alabang Town Center, Ayala Alabang

NORTH LUZON WIRELESS CENTERS

BAGUIO WIRELESS CENTER
Banco de Oro bldg., Upper Session Road Baguio City, 2600

BAGUIO - ABANAO SQUARE
2/F Abanao Square, Abanao cor. Zanueta Sts., Baguio City, 2600

BAGUIO - JOHN HAY
Mile Hi Camp John Hay, Baguio City, 2600

BAYOMBONG WIRELESS CENTER
Garingan Bldg., National Road, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, 3700

DAGUPAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Insular Life Bldg., Arellano St.,Dagupan City

ILAGAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F ZARA Bldg., 120 Rizal St. Centro, Ilagan, Isabela

LAOAG WIRELESS CENTER
Concheng Building (beside LBC Bank) Rizal St., Laoag City

SF LA UNION WIRELESS CENTER
CKC Arcade, Quezon Avenue, San Fernando, La Union (Fronting Pilars')

SANTIAGO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Almazan Bldg., Natl. Highway cor. Luna St., Santiago City

TUGUEGARAO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Diwa Bldg., College Ave cor. Burgos Street, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

URDANETA WIRELESS CENTER
Alexander St., Urdaneta City, Pangasinan

VIGAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Plaza Maestro Building, Florentino Street, Vigan City

CENTRAL LUZON WIRELESS CENTERS

ANGELES NEPO MALL
3rd Level, Nepo Mall Teresa Avenue cor. St. Joseph St., Angeles City

BALANGA WIRELESS CENTER
2/F Rural Bank of Pilar Bldg., J.P Rizal St., Balanga, Bataan

BALIUAG WIRELESS CENTER
De Leon Bldg., Cagayan Valley Road, Poblacion, Baliuag Bulacan

CABANATUAN WIRELESS CENTER
Ground Level, NE Pacific Mall, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City

MALOLOS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F FC Bldg., Sumapang Matanda, McArthur Hi-way, Malolos, Bulacan

OLONGAPO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Ocampo Bldg., #960 Rizal Ave., East Tapinac, Olongapo City

ROBINSONS PAMPANGA WIRELESS CENTER
2nd Level, Robinson's Starmills - Pampanga CG Road, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

TARLAC WIRELESS CENTER
1030-a Al's Bldg. Annex, McArthur Hi-way, San Nicolas, Tarlac

SOUTH LUZON WIRELESS CENTER

BATANGAS CITY (BATANGAS)
G/F Insular Life Bldg. (in front of Batangas University), Hilltop, Batangas City

CALAMBA (LAGUNA)
Anderson Bldg. II, Parian, Calamba, Laguna

CALAPAN (ORIENTAL MINDORO)
New Era bldg., J.P Rizal St., Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

DAET (CAMARINES NORTE)
G/F Alegre Bldg., J. Lucban St., Daet, Camarines Norte

IMUS (ROBINSON'S CAVITE)
Level 4, Robinson's Place, Aguinaldo Hi-way Imus, Cavite

LEGAZPI (ALBAY)
G/F D. Yanzon Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St.,Legazpi City, Albay

LIPA (BATANGAS)
G/F Guadalupe Plaza bldg., M.K. Lina St., Lipa City Batangas 4217

LUCENA (QUEZON)
173 Granja St. Lucena City

NAGA (CAMARINES SUR)
#41 Panganiban Drive, cor. Isarog St.,Naga City

PINAMALAYAN (ORIENTAL MINDORO)
G/F Tri Star Bldg., Francisco St., Pinamalayan Oriental Mindoro

PUERTO PRINCESA (PALAWAN)
Door 1 2/F Baisa Bldg., National Highway San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City Palawan

SAN JOSE (OCCIDENTAL MINDORO)
J & S Bldg. Libero St. San Jose Occidental Mindoro 5100

SAN PABLO (LAGUNA)
Choting Bldg. M. Basa St., cor P. Burgos St.,San Pablo City 4000

TAGAYTAY(CAVITE)
OLIVAREZ PLAZA, Emilio Aguinaldo Highway Tagaytay City

VISAYAS WIRELESS CENTERS

KALIBO, AKLAN WIRELESS CENTER
Arch. Reyes St.,Kalibo, Aklan 5600

BORACAY WIRELESS CENTER
Balabag, Boracay Island Malay, Aklan, Besides Land Bank

SM ILOILO WIRELESS CENTER
Lower Grnd Flr, SM City Benigno Aquino Drive, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

ROBINSON'S ILOILO WIRELESS CENTER
3rd Floor Robinson' Plaza, Ledesma St.,Iloilo City

GAISANO ROXAS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Gaisano City, Arnaldo Blvd Roxas City

BACOLOD WIRELESS CENTER
G/F EL Court, 1ST Lacson St., Bacolod City

ROBINSONS BACOLOD
ROBINSONS PLACE Level 2 South Arcade, Lacson Mandalagan, Bacolod

CADIZ WIRELESS CENTER
Punta Cabahug Street, Cadiz City,Negros Occ.

KABANKALAN WIRELESS CENTER
NZ Bldg., Km 91, National Highway, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental

SAN CARLOS WIRELESS CENTER
Eddie Tan Yu Bldg., S. Carmona St., San Carlos City, Negros Occ.

CEBU WIRELESS CENTER
G/F JRG Bldg., Mango Avenue, Cebu City

DUMAGUETE WIRELESS CENTER
Door 2 Milagros Bldg., Perdices St., Dumaguete City

BOGO, CEBU WIRELESS CENTER
San Vicente St., Bogo, Cebu City

SM CEBU WIRELESS CENTER
2 Level SM City, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

TAGBILARAN WIRELESS CENTER
New Capitol Bldg., Marapao St.,Tagbilaran City

TACLOBAN WIRELESS CENTER
ERG Bldg. Cor. Justice & Del Pilar Sts.,Tacloban City

CALBAYOG WIRELESS CENTER
G/F B & L Bldg., Magsaysay Blvd., Calbayog City, Samar

CATBALOGAN WIRELESS CENTER
162 Rizal Avenue, Catbalogan, Samar

ORMOC WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Sixto Pongos Bldg., Aviles St.,Ormoc City

MINDANAO WIRELESS CENTERS

BUTUAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Ramcor Building, P. Burgos St., Butuan City 8600

CAGAYAN DE ORO WIRELESS CENTER
Entrance 2, Limketkai Center, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City

SM CAGAYAN DE ORO WIRELESS CENTER
3rd Level SM City, Cagayan de Oro, Upper Carmen Cagayan de Oro City

ILIGAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Garcia Building, Quezon Avenue Extension, Iligan City

SURIGAO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Guerra Bldg., Cor Vasquez, Rizal St.,Surigao City

VALENCIA WIRELESS CENTER
Tamay Lang Bldg., G. Lavina Avenue (Fronting Desmark) Valencia Bukidnon

SM DAVAO WIRELESS CENTER
SM City Davao, 3rd Level Quimpo Blvd., Ecoland Matina, Davao City

DAVAO LANDCO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F LANDCO-PDCP Corporate Center Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City

DAVAO GAISANO WIRELESS CENTER
Gaisano Mall of Davao, 3rd level, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City

DIGOS WIRELESS CENTER
2458 Roxas Extension Zone II Digos, Davao Del Sur 8002

TAGUM WIRELESS CENTER
Bucor Bldg., National Highway, Tagum Davao del Norte

GEN. SANTOS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F RD Bldg., Ireneo Santiago St., Gen. Santos City

COTABATO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Insular Life Building, SK Pendatun Avenue, Cotabato City

GENERAL SANTOS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F RD Bldg., Ireneo Santiago Blvd. General Santos City

KORONADAL WIRELESS CENTER
SMRAA Building, Alunan Avenue, Koronadal, South Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN WIRELESS CENTER
2/F KHAS Realty Corporation, Quezon Blvd. Kidapawan City

DIPOLOG WIRELESS CENTER
Osmeña cor. Echavez St., Dipolog City

OZAMIS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Insular Life Bldg., Don Anselmo Bernard Ave., Corner Jose Abad Santos, Ozamis City,Misamis Occidental

PAGADIAN WIRELESS CENTER
Edificio Del Rey, Bonifacio st., cor Jamisola St Pagadian City

TAWI-TAWI WIRELESS CENTER
2/F Bing-Ingho bldg., Datu Halun St., cor. Sukuran St., Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

ZAMBOANGA WIRELESS CENTER
#149 G/F, Fidela Bldg. (La Vino Hotel), Zamboanga City

TSI BRANCHES

NCR
Festival Mall
Space 3082, 3rd Level Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa

Harrison Plaza
2/F Harrison Plaza Shopping Center, A. Malate cor. Adriatico St. Malate Manila (in front of Snapshot)

Robinsons Galleria
3rd Level Madison Ave. Robinsons Galleria Extension

Robinsons Place Manila
Level 3, Pedro Gil Wing, Robinsons Place Manila, Malate

Shangri La
Level 1 Shangri-la Mall, Shaw Blvd

Shoppesa Libis
G/F Shoppesa Supermarket Libis, Quezon City

SM Centerpoint
3/L SM Centerpoint Ramon Magsaysay cor. Aranata Avenue, Sta Mesa

SM City Bacoor
Lower Ground, SM Bacoor Rotonda, Bacoor, Cavite

SM Sucat
3/F SM Sucat Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City

SM North EDSA
G/F SM Car Park SM City North Edsa, Pag-asa 1, Quezon City

SM Megamall
5L Mega A, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong

SM City Fairview
Stall 62 Lower Ground Regalado Ave., Quirino Hiway, Fairview

Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
2/F Bridgeway Sta. Lucia East Grandmall Cainta, Rizal(in front of Scents & Fragrance)

Taft Central Exchange
G/F near LRT Entrance Gil Puyat cor Taft Ave Pasay City

Tutuban Mall
2/F Tutuban Mall Zaibarte Town Center Imus G/F Zaibarte Town Center

LUZON
Imus
2th Level, Robinson's Place, Imus, Cavite

Sta Rosa
3rd Level Robinson's Place Brg Tagapo, National hi-way Sta Rosa Laguna

Cabanatuan
Door 2 Sta Rina Bldg Maharlika Hi-way Cabanatuan City

Olongapo
G/F Ocampo Bldg 960 Ave. East Tapinac, Olongapo City

SM Pampanga
Stall 151, SM City Pampanga, Mexico Olongapo Gapan Road, San Fernando City

Tarlac
Metretown Extension Cir 3F Metretown Mall Mc Arthur hi-way, Tarlac City

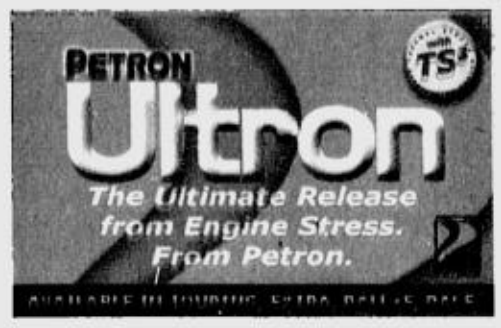
VISAYAS
SM City Iloilo
LGF SM City, Benigno Aquino Drive, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

SM City Cebu
3rd Level SM City North Reclamation Area,Cebu City

MINDANAO
SM Davao
3rd Level SM City Ecoland Davao City

Davao Dasi
Dasi Bldg., JP Laurel, Davao City

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2569 SERIES OF 2003



Fitch to retain stable outlook on RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

FITCH Ratings has assured the government it would retain its stable outlook on the country's foreign and local borrowings, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

"I met with one of their officials and they assured me that they are very comfortable with the stable outlook for the current rating. I told them that since their untimely downgrading in June, we have performed well especially in managing the deficit," the finance chief told reporters in a phone interview from London.

Fitch downgraded its rating on Philippine debts from BB-plus to BB in June on concerns that the government had been unable to manage its public debt and consequently missed the budget deficit in 2002.

The rating firm also worried about the continuity of reforms after the Macapagal administration would end its term in May 2004.

Camacho said he saw no need to request Fitch Ratings to upgrade its ratings.

A lower rating tends to raise the cost of borrowing for the government, but Camacho insisted that even after Fitch made a downgrade, the spreads on Philippine debt papers had tightened, indicating a more favorable cost.

"I think we are better off with a lower rating and stable outlook instead of a higher rating with a negative outlook where there is a tendency to talk about a lot of negative things," the finance chief said.

Fitch downgraded its stable outlook to negative in November last year after Standard & Poor's did the same in October. S&P downgraded the Philippine debt rating to BB from BB-plus in April.

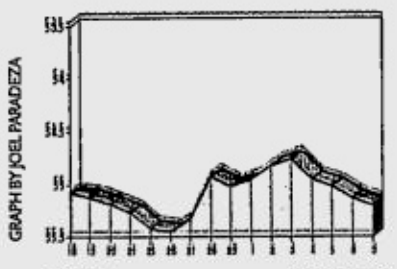
Moody's Investors Service assured last week that it would keep its outlook and ratings on the Philippines' foreign and local borrowings as long as "domestic and external conditions suggest" that the Macapagal administration could push ahead with economic reforms.

The rating firm, however, stressed that political pressures were rising and that a continued erosion of investor confidence could weaken the government's

FITCH/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.950 = $1

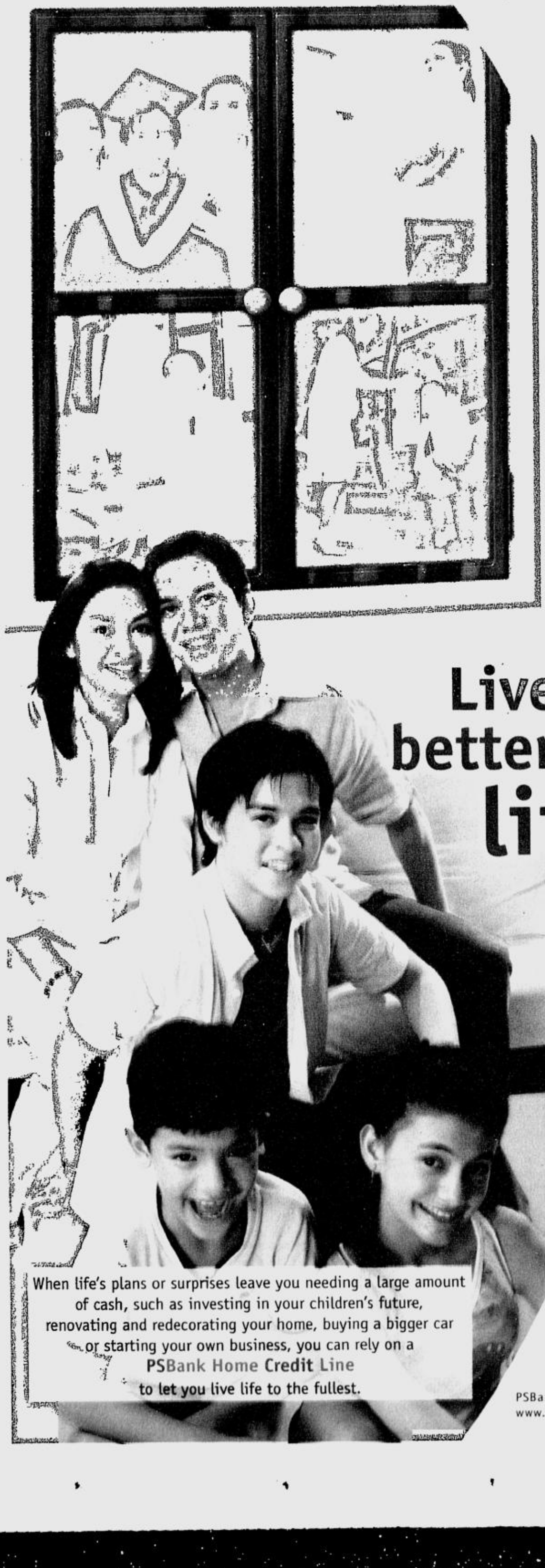
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 10, 2003

¥ 116.72 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 10, 2003

GOLD: $382.00-382.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 10, 2003



Private first clash

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TO resolve the issue on the right of Jose Pidal as a "private citizen"—whoever he, she, it, or they may be—Jose Pidal must go to the Supreme Court.

Yipee! So there, it's all so simple! The problem goes away, just like that, by throwing it up there to the Supreme Court.

Nobody knows if the Supreme Court actually has a lot of free time. It's hard to say if the Supreme Court justices do nothing all day but stare at the ceiling.

But how is the track record of this Supreme Court, let's say, when it comes to detachment from something that has anything to do with this cute administration?

* * *

SUPPOSEDLY, Jose Pidal is keeping hundreds of millions of pesos, and also dollars, in various banks here, and also abroad.

It so happens that Jose Pidal is a fictitious name. A huge fortune, therefore, is deposited with banks under an alias, something we often associate with the underground.

I don't know if it's a common practice among big-time business people to put their money—as in cash, COLD cash—in banks under fictitious names.

Down here in our barangay, however, such an arrangement immediately makes us think of bad things about the source of the money.

* * *

NOW, somebody came forward to claim that he was Jose Pidal, going by the real legal name of Ignacio Arroyo. Ignacio who?

Ignacio Arroyo happens to be the younger brother of the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo, who happens to be right smack at the center of the storm.

Ignacio Arroyo must be a business genius, since he claims to have that kind of CASH, although he has no visible big-time business.

Come on, if it were Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala who would come forward as Jose Pidal, nobody would be surprised, except perhaps the guys at BPI Family Bank.

* * *

BUT what's even bothering is, this genius came out as Jose Pidal, well, many many days after the news broke out, linking his brother, Attorney Mike, to the bank accounts.

If you were Jose Pidal, and this stupid senator would claim your money belonged to somebody else, you would immediately come out with your vocal chords screaming.

But Ignacio Arroyo waited for some time. To the guys down here in our barangay, it's as if his was a well-thought-out drama.

Because all of a sudden, after all the PR campaign on his penmanship and such, selling to us the idea that he is Jose Pidal, Ignacio Arroyo invokes his right to silence.

* * *

"PRIVACY" is the word. Ignacio Arroyo now says that nobody, not even senators, can force him to talk about the huge Jose Pidal accounts. He says he is a private citizen.

Thus, on the issue of privacy, was born the first legality clash involving the Jose Pidal cover-up ... este, scandal.

As a private citizen myself, I will let Sen. Panfilo Lacson pluck my right eyebrow, if he can give me a little info on this "private" citizen who claims to be Jose Pidal.

This private citizen happens to be close to the tenants in Malacañang, and he amasses so much CASH, he puts it in several banks under a fictitious name.

* * *

BUT it is clear that, to some people, there are two standards for what's right and what's wrong—one for this cute administration, and the other for the rest of us.

The fact is, the Jose Pidal accounts exist in those very banks in which Ping Lacson said they were kept. Somebody even came forward to claim them. In our barangay, we just want to know how big the CASH hoard really is.

Yet certain people in media, plus certain people in the civil society, try to insinuate that Ping Lacson invented the whole thing.

Civil society now talks about the rights of the bank depositor, danger to the banking system, etc. The same rights did not exist for the infamous Jose Velarde.

* * *

FOR clouding the Jose Pidal issue is some legality mumbo-jumbo on the so-called right to privacy. Going around is a lot of wonderful newfound legal logic.

And that's the reason, I guess, why many of the guys in our barangay did not become lawyers. They have a poor sense of what's right and what's wrong.

I mean, the guys in our barangay. What? Did you think I refer to the lawyers?

Okay, so the lawyer of Ignacio Arroyo also draws a fat consultancy fee from the government-owned Land Bank. But so what?

* * *

AT the heart of this Jose Pidal scandal, nevertheless, is not the exciting, stimulating, arousing legality issues on anybody's right to privacy.

Down here it's all so simple. Ignacio Arroyo once claimed he owned properties in San Francisco, California, US of A, which he also put in the name of Jose Miguel Arroyo and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

In other words, he used a public official, the President of the Republic herself, as a "dummy." That, again, is the President of the Republic.

Now, after using the highest public figure in the land, the President of the Republic, to front for him, to act as his "dummy," he says that nobody has any business asking him questions. And some people even think he is a hero!

* * *

SOME people in this cute administration are selling a different PR line. And that is, the Senate investigation of the Jose Pidal accounts is not good for us.

For one, they say it is bad for business confidence. They say the Senate investigation is the main reason why the peso is taking a beating against the dollar.

And so this time, the same groups which wanted to force the opening of the Jose Velarde account, do not support the opening of the Jose Pidal accounts.

That's why even the Senate is under attack, and it's all in the name of business confidence. Never mind what's right or what's wrong.

* * *

IN other words, what they are saying is, for the sake of the economy, let's just forget the whole thing.

I do not think that they can fool the public. The issue has taken a life of its own, for better or for worse.

Because nobody can deny the Jose Pidal accounts, in the same way that nobody could deny the Jose Velarde account, the cover-up can only bring down confidence some more.

Really, we have to clear this thing up. The thinking is, if we let this one just go away, the same things will happen all over again. And again. Ad infinitum.

Profit-taking, peso woes pull stocks down

STOCKS pulled back yesterday after rallying the previous day as investors took a break amid renewed worries about the peso and a lack of fresh leads, analysts said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) led the losses with a 3.76-percent or P25 fall to P640. PLDT had leapt 7.2 percent on Tuesday.

The main index closed 6.81 points or 0.52 percent lower at 1,292.52 points, after rising more than 3 percent on Tuesday. The index was up 26.92 percent so far this year.

"After two days of significant gains, investors took profits. The market is taking a rest. The peso is also a concern," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

Value turnover dropped to P683.6 million from Tuesday's P834.2 million. Losers beat gainers 40 to 16 and there were 42 stocks unchanged.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it was barring the purchase of dollars to buy dollar-denominated bonds to ease pressure on the weak peso.

The local currency—which fell perilously close to its record low of 55.75 to the dollar last month after a mutiny by rogue troops on July 27—strengthened slightly to around 55 yesterday morning from Tuesday's local close at 55.195 following the central bank order.

At midday, the peso was quoted at 55.03/085.

Analysts also said players were likely tracking a decline in foreign markets given a lack of firm leads at home.

The US Dow fell 0.83 percent on Tuesday on fears America's recovery is not in full swing.

"The Philippine market was driven by the foreign market's run-up. Most likely, in the near term, local players will just follow the direction of the Dow and Nikkei," said Vistan.

"We expect some consolidation in the range of 1,270 to 1,300 before another major rally."

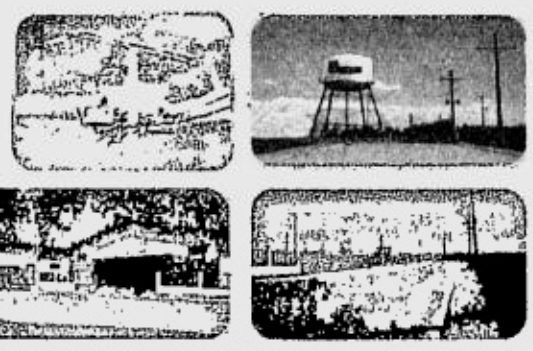
Ayala Corp., the country's largest conglomerate with interests in property, telecommunications, banking and utility, dropped 1.12 percent or five centavos to P4.40. *Reuters*

IDEAL FOR LIGHT AND MEDIUM INDUSTRIES

CAVITE
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK

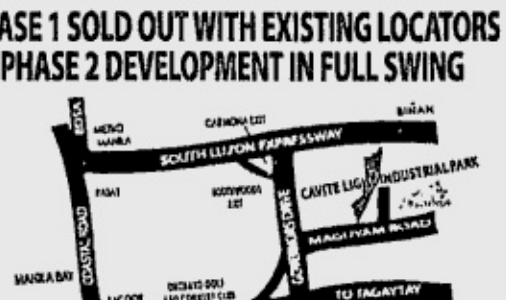
ALONG MAGUYAM ROAD CARMONA, CAVITE

Cavite Light Industrial Park serves as a production base for investors who wish to tap the country's vast resources. The Park's ideal location provides convenient access to public transport, multi skilled bilingual work force and facilities that will enhance the efficiency of industrial operations in an environmentally sound community.



DEVELOPMENT FEATURES:
- 15 TO 20 METERS WIDE CONCRETE ROAD WITH CURBS AND GUTTERS
- 3 PHASE WIRE FROM MERALCO AND CONCRETE ELECTRICAL POLES
- TELEPHONE LINES FROM DIGITEL AND PLDT
- UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE SYSTEM
- 50,000 GALLON OVERHEAD WATER TANK
- 24 HOUR SECURITY SERVICE
- LOT SIZES FROM 1,600 sq.m. AND UP
- 1.9 HECTARES COMMERCIAL BLOCK

PHASE 1 SOLD OUT WITH EXISTING LOCATORS
PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT IN FULL SWING



Owner / Developer

CATHAY METAL CORP. CATHAY LAND, INC.

23rd Flr. Galleria Corp. Center. EDSA cor., Ortigas Ave., Q.C.

Tel . # 02- 631-4069 / 636-0111 / FAX 635-8176

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	44	43	43.5	2,373,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	1,920
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	241,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	30	29	29.5	289,300
Philippine National Bank	25	26	25	26	73,800
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	1,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	11,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	20,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	50,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	278,000
Pcl Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	236,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1210	1200	1210	1,750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	25	25	19,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.66	0.7	0.66	0.68	7,720,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com.	0.36	0.36	0.36	.36	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	680	690	61,930
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.05	0.048	.05	10,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.0525	0.047	.0525	140,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	.61	4,020,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	650	650	630	640	262,960
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	.4	310,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14	14.25	539,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.75	22.25	22.5	1,271,300
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	2	2	5,198,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	35,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	208,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	4,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	228,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31.5	31	31	57,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	41,100
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	.7	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53.5	53	53.5	8,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	18,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	.39	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	11,841,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	61,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	130,000
APC Group Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	.07	1,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	4,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	.1	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	.59	15,610,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	.15	1,850,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	4,070,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	738,400
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	55	64	55	64	2,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	3,510,000
Ionics Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	208,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	16,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	.66	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	4,080,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	950,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	290,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,950,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	.115	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	60,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	2,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	94,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.7	0.7	0.7	.7	350,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	.09	300,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	2,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	130,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	1,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	.33	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	26.5	26.5	25	25.5	185,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	470	470	470	470	20
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	7,543,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	.23	300,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	.48	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	27,001,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	.205	770,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	.2	300,000
Primex Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	5,000
Sm Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	60,000
Sm Prime Holdings, Inc.	5.8	6.1	5.8	6.1	17,714,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.15	0.18	0.15	.18	60,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.205	0.21	0.205	.205	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	11,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	.004	20,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	500,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	.0032	50,000,000

CURRENCIES

September 10, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.890472	1.000000	55.168000
Japan	Yen	0.007621	0.008558	0.472100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.416830	1.591100	87.777800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114176	0.128220	7.073600
Switzerland	Franc	0.646112	0.725584	40.029000
Canada	Dollar	0.651835	0.732011	40.383600
Singapore	Dollar	0.507536	0.569963	31.443700
Australia	Dollar	0.585760	0.657808	36.290000
Bahrain	Dinar	2.362245	2.652801	146.349700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237446	0.266652	14.710700
Brunei	Dollar	0.506093	0.568343	31.354300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022020	0.024728	1.364200
UAE	Dirham	0.242470	0.272294	15.021900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.123000	61.953700
Argentina	Peso	0.300835	0.337838	18.637800
Brazil	Real	0.304435	0.341880	18.860800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134640	0.151201	8.341500
India	Rupee	0.019476	0.021872	1.205600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234366	0.263193	14.519800
Mexico	New Peso	0.081196	0.091183	5.030400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519771	0.583703	32.201700
Norway	Kroner	0.121036	0.135923	7.498600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015446	0.017346	0.956900
South Africa	Rand	0.119847	0.134588	7.425000
Korea	Won	0.000761	0.000855	0.047200
Sweden	Kroner	0.109216	0.122650	6.766400
Syria	Pound	0.021202	0.023810	1.313600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026183	0.029403	1.622100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000558	0.000627	0.034600

INTEREST RATES

Sept .10, 2003-
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 10-Sep-03	MART1 9-Sep-03
1 Month	6.3075	6.32
3 Months	6.3033	6.3117
6 Months	6.7589	6.6692
1 Year	8.2054	8.395
2 Years	9.6883	9.7433
3 Years	10.2283	10.25
4 Years	10.61	10.7183
5 Years	10.9375	11.14
7 Years	11.4857	11.55
10 Years	11.8036	11.89
20 Years	12.2133	12.27
25 Years	12.4183	12.4767

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

La Suerte plea rejected

A PARAÑAQUE judge has junked a petition by La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory to prevent the Department of Finance (DoF) from implementing a revenue regulation imposing higher excise taxes on new cigarette brands.

Citing Section 218 of the National Internal Revenue Code, Judge Leoncia Real-Dimagiba of Parañaque RTC's Branch 194 said the court "has no authority to grant an injunction to restrain the collection of any National Internal Revenue tax, fee or charge imposed by this code."

Earlier, the DOF, upon the recommendation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), issued Revenue Regulation 22-2003 (RR 22-2003) which reclassified 30 new cigarette brands into a higher tax category. The revenue measure took effect on Sept. 1, 2003.

La Suerte's Astro Filter King, Astro Menthol 100s, Astro Menthol King, Memphis Filter King and Memphis Menthol will now have to pay excise taxes of P5.60 per pack from the previous P1.12 or a difference of P4.48 per pack.

The judge has told La Suerte that pending resolution of the constitutionality or legality of RR 22-2003, the firm could pay its taxes under protest or ask for a refund later should it be proven right.

British American Tobacco (Philippines) Inc. (BAT) also sought similar relief from RR 22-2003 from the Makati Regional Trial Court. But citing the same prohibition on the issuance of court injunctions against the implementation of tax laws, the Makati court rejected BAT's petition. As a result, BAT will now pay P13.44 in excise taxes for every pack of Lucky Strike Filter, Lucky Strike Lights, Lucky Strike Menthol Lights and Capri Slims Lights. These brands are imported and sold by BAT in the Philippines.

CDC, MONDRAGON SCRAP PACT

New Mimosa investor remains elusive

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEISURE estate operator Mondragon International Philippines Inc. and Clark Development Corp. have scrapped an earlier memorandum of understanding on a new lease for the Mimosa Leisure Estate in Clark, Pampanga.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, MIPI chair and CEO Jose Antonio Gonzales said his company and CDC had rescinded the MOU as of Sept. 4, but assured that both parties continued to "seek a win-win solution" for the Mimosa leisure estate.

During his meeting with CDC chair Rizalino Navarro, Gonzales said he had pledged "maximum cooperation in their mutual efforts to quickly locate an investor" for the cash-strapped estate.

In an interview, Gonzales explained that the termination of the MOU meant that MIPI and CDC would now go back to their interim agreement, which called for their joint management of Mimosa and for the interim operation of the casino by the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

He added that both parties had run out of time in meeting the MOU deadline, which was last Monday, without any deal with a much-needed new investor.

Within a period fixed by the MOU, CDC and MIPI were supposed to enter into a memorandum of agreement providing for a new lease on Mimosa, new rentals, and the payment scheme for MLRC's rental arrears to CDC.

The same MOU would have given MIPI a re-entry mechanism to take back management and control of Mimosa provided it would be able to comply with the requirements set by CDC and, as an alternative, Mimosa could be leased by CDC to a new corporate vehicle to be formed for this purpose.

"There are people approaching CDC and us. They want to finish their due diligence before investing," Gonzales said. "Since we found out that the original premises of the MOU were not turning out to be what all of us expected, we rescinded it."

For instance, he said the re-entry mechanism was not possible because it would mean leaving MIPI's creditors behind, as these banks controlled leasehold assignments. Among its major creditors is Bank of the Philippine Islands.

"We have to do this to the satisfaction of the creditors. There's no need for another MOU. We're going for the interim agreement. We're all looking for the (new investor)," he said.

The state-run CDC took physical control of the 215-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate in December 1999 following MIPI's failure to settle back rentals.

Fitch to retain . . .

From page B1

fiscal position as well as the country's external payments.

Of the top three rating firms, only Moody's had been steadfast in its rating on the Philippines.

"This year's fiscal performance offers evidence in favor of the government's economic policy capabilities. Improved revenue collections and expenditure restraint should, if maintained, reduce the national government's deficit comfortably below the P202-billion target," Moody's noted.

The government, as a result of improving fiscal numbers, was looking to bring down this year's deficit to P178-P185 billion from P210.7 billion last year.

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CDC defends approval of SM project in Clark

CLARK Development Corp. (CDC) yesterday said that consultations were made before it approved the establishment of SM Clark.

CDC president Emmanuel Angeles said CDC went through this tedious process to ensure that the concerns of various sectors were taken into account before the project got the approval of CDC board.

Angeles disputed the claim made by a group representing Clark locators that majority of them were not consulted about the project. The group is opposing the establishment of SM Clark claiming, among others, that most of them would go bankrupt once SM Clark opens to the public.

"While public consultations were not pre-requisites in the regular approval process being observed by CDC in its business development activities inside Clark, CDC deemed it proper to consult various organizations to explain the benefits of SM project," Angeles said.

He claimed that the establishment of SM Clark would redound to economic benefits, including the generation of at least 2,000 and 10,000 direct and indirect jobs respectively, increase in consumer spending and ultimately the development of Clark itself as a haven for local and international tourists.

Aside from the public consultations, CDC said it also received resolutions from the provincial boards of Pampanga and Tarlac which favorably endorsed the mall project. The resolutions acknowledged the potentials of the SM project in spurring economic growth, notwithstanding its positive impact in livelihood and employment opportunities.

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Crude imports up 12.26% in 1st 5 months

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CRUDE oil imports for the first five months went up by 12.26 percent to 41.62 million barrels from 37.07 million barrels in 2002, the Department of Energy said.

The DOE attributed the increase to a government requirement for local oil companies to maintain minimum inventory levels aimed to cushion the impact of the US-led war against Iraq on local prices and supply.

Issued in October last year, EO 314 required the oil refiners to maintain up to 30 days of supply while other oil firms were required to keep 15 days' worth of products.

The minimum inventory was imposed in January and was lifted in March.

However, importation of refined products went down by 9.4 percent to 15.03 million barrels from 16.59 million barrels between January and May last year.

Of the total imports of refined products, 39.5 percent was accounted for by diesel, 35.8 percent by unleaded gasoline, and 20 percent by liquefied petroleum gas.

Of these, the oil majors—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc.—took 63.3 percent while the rest were purchases made by the small importers.

Also, the DOE said the oil firms relied heavily on imports with the implementation of stricter standards under the Clean Air Act of 1999.

$15-M ADB loan eyed for exporters

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ASIAN Development Bank plans to extend a $15-million loan to state-owned Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency to support the latter's financing for small- and medium-scale exporters.

In an interview yesterday, Philexim president and chief executive Joel Valdes said the two parties would likely sign a memorandum of understanding for the loan this month.

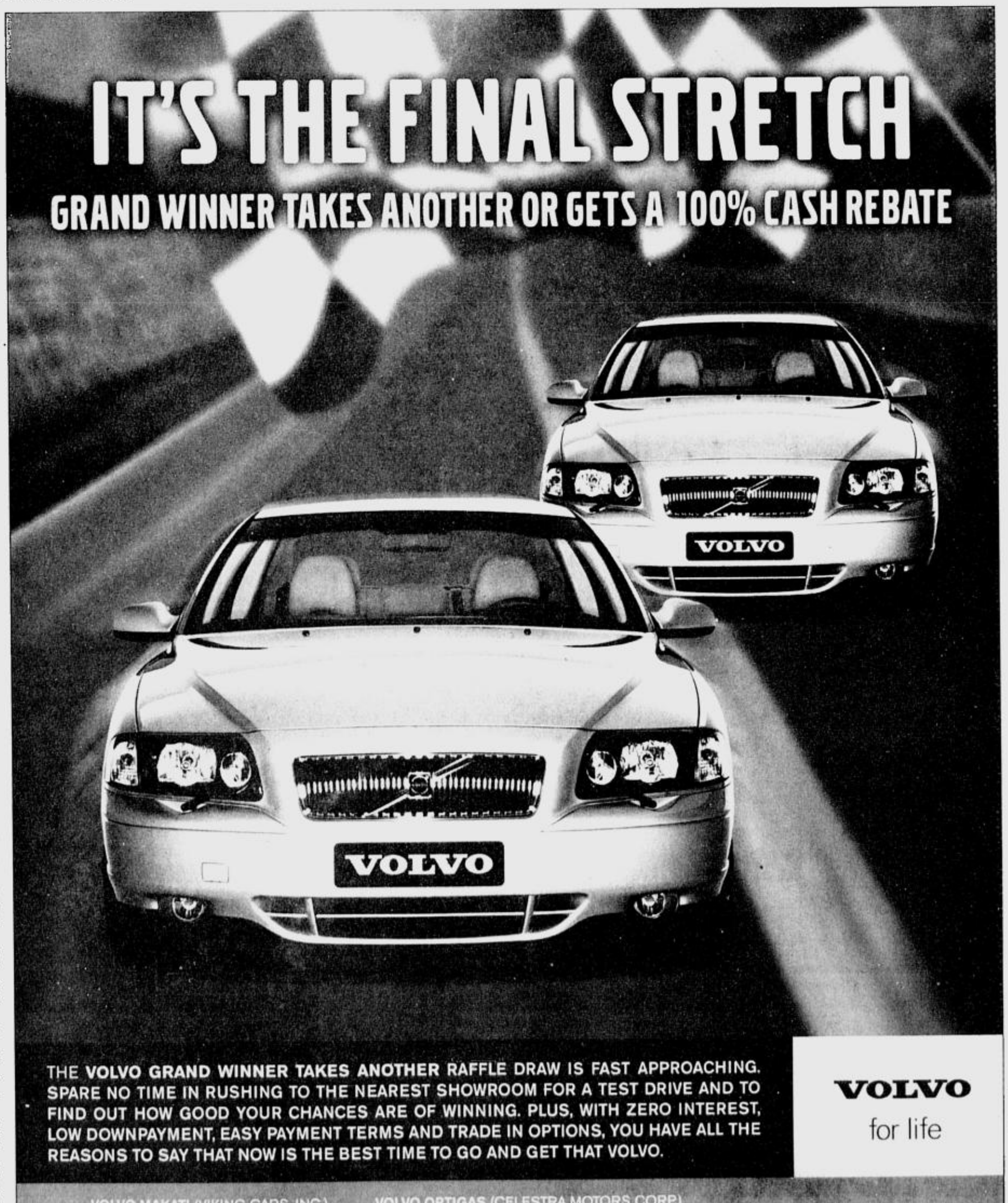
"Our projections show that in two to three years we may need credit lines amounting to P600 million to P800 million because we are gearing up for the 'Sulong' program," Valdes said.

The 'Sulong' or SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth program, which involves government financial institutions, provides small and medium enterprises access to loans of up to P5 million under reasonable lending rates and terms.

Valdes said that once necessary approvals were obtained for the loan, drawdown should be made in January next year.

Attached to the loan are various typical conditions, such as Philexim must deploy the entire $15 million for on-lending specifically to exporters or suppliers of exporters.

Valdes said the loans to small- and medium-scale exporters would be denominated in dollars to eliminate the government financial institution's foreign exchange risk.



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE MEDALLION	1 THE MEDALLION	ArtFilm LE PACTE DU SILENCE (EXCLUSIVE) 1:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED BEATS 1 DADDY DAY CARE 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	THX 1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS.	2 S.W.A.T.		THX GUARANTEED BEATS 2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 12:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10, 11:25	2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 DADDY DAY CARE	THX GUARANTEED BEATS 3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	GUARANTEED BEATS 3 THE MEDALLION 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	3 S.W.A.T.
4 S.W.A.T	4 INTERSTATE 60		GUARANTEED BEATS 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS - 12:45 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 - 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30	4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 12 & 13, 9PM BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept. 18 - 7PM	GUARANTEED BEATS 5 S.W.A.T. 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	5 THE MEDALLION
	6 DADDY DAY CARE			
	7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2			

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2 KEKA
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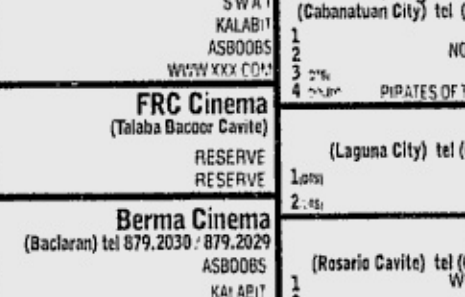

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10 INTERSTATE 60
11 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12 KALABIT

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2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 THE MEDALLION
5 DADDY DAY CARE
6 S.W.A.T.
7 KALABIT
8 WWW.XXX.COM
9 PINAY PIE
10 INTERSTATE 60
11 SPY KIDS 3-D
12 ASBOOBS

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3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
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5 DADDY DAY CARE
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2 MEDALLION
3 ASBOOBS
4 KALABIT

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2 KALABIT
3 PINAY PIE
4 ASBOOBS
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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2 KALABIT
3 DADDY DAY CARE
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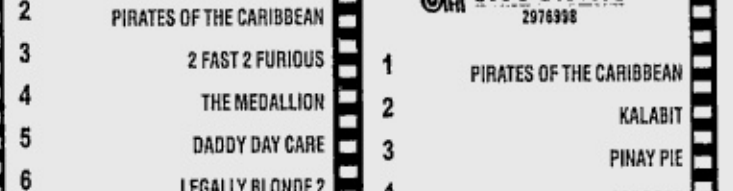

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1 DADDY DAY CARE
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2 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T. 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 10:50, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 KALABIT 11:00, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
10 ASBOOBS 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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2 KALABIT - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T. - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 DADDY DAY CARE - - 10:10, 12:25, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
5 Legally Blonde 2 - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
6 ASBOOBS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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8 KALABIT

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
2nd Floor S&L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd.
cor. Romero Salas Street, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. 525-8843

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested Contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category AAA and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) as Large A in General Engineering for Port, Harbor and Offshore Engineering and Large A in General Building for Building and Industrial Plant with experience handling projects "similar" in nature and complexity to this project ("similar" means scope of the work of the project are almost same), to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the project.

Construction of ATN/MAR Support Base and Supply of Office Furnitures and Equipment – Phase I at Punta Engaño, Mactan, Cebu.

The scope of work includes, but not limited to, the construction of ATN/MAR Support Base which comprises a one storey Administration Bldg., construction of wharf, construction of more or less 2.7 km road network, dredging of a 150m x 120m protected harbor, reclamation of a 3.5 ha. area, supply/delivery of an oily water separator system complete with accessories and supply of office furnitures and equipment. The whole works shall be completed within 270 c.d.

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P163,621,925.

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents may be obtained upon presentation of a valid PCAB License starting September 8, 2003 until September 19, 2003 Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the following address:

THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
3rd Floor Columbia Towers
Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Ave., 1555 Mandaluyong City

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents must be submitted to the above address in one (1) original and three (3) copies not later than 10:00 AM of October 3, 2003 upon which the opening of the documents shall follow.

Prospective Bidders will be advised of the result of their submissions. Only qualified Bidders will be invited to purchase Bid Documents which will be made available on October 21-28, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P15,000.00 per set.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 14, 2004 at the DOTC Conference Room, 16th Floor Columbia Towers, Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Schedule of the site inspection will be set during the pre-bid conference.

All particulars relative to the Prequalification/Eligibility and Bidding process shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of EO No. 40 Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the Notice, Instructions and Requirements for Prequalification/Eligibility.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect found therein, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid, and accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **AGUSTIN R. BENGZON**
DOTC Undersecretary & Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 6, 8, 11 & 12, 2003)

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1.3 LXI M/T Green
1 unit Honda City 1999
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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF THE SAFEGUARD MEASURES CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF FLOAT GLASS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES (SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 03-2003)

ORDER

The Philippine float glass industry, represented by Asahi Glass Philippines (AGP) filed a safeguard measures protest against the importation of float glass, clear and tinted, classified under HS Code Nos. 7005.2190 and 7005.2990 from various countries. The protest alleged that float glass are being imported in increased quantities and that as a result thereof causes serious injury to the domestic industry.

The period of investigation covered imports from 1997 to 2002. For injury determination, the Department considered relevant information for the same period.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, the Department of Trade and Industry, acting under Section 7 of RA 8800, the "Safeguard Measures Act", found after preliminary determination that increased imports of the product under consideration have caused serious injury to the domestic industry, particularly in terms of declining market share, domestic sales, capacity utilization, production, employment, profitability and productivity and increased inventories. The industry's prices were also depressed and margins of profits declined. Landed costs of imports were found to be lower than the ex-plant prices of the domestic product.

Pursuant to Section 8 of RA 8800 which provides that **"In critical circumstances where a delay would cause damage which would be difficult to repair, and pursuant to a preliminary determination that increased imports are a substantial cause of, serious injury to the domestic industry"** a provisional safeguard measure in the form of a cash bond amounting to P2,000.00 per MT for clear float glass and P2,650.00 per MT for tinted float glass shall be imposed for a period not exceeding 200 days from the date of the issuance by the Bureau of Customs of the relevant Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) on all importations of float glass, clear and tinted, classified under HS Codes 7005.2190 and 7005.2990.

However, imports originating from the developing countries listed in Annexes A and B covered by Rule 8.8 of the IRR of RA 8800 shall not be subject to the provisional safeguard measure:

All importers of float glass (clear and tinted), regardless of port of exportation, are required to secure a Certificate of Country of Origin (CO) issued by the authorized agency/office in the source country of manufacture as authenticated by the Philippine Embassy/Consulate thereat.

Considering that float glass are covered by the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement, as provided under Articles 6 and 8 of the said Agreement, the Philippines is required to notify and accord adequate opportunity for consultation with the governments of the ASEAN countries concerned i.e. Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand which maybe affected by the application of provisional safeguard measures on imports sourced from ASEAN countries.

The notification and consultation requirements of Article 12 of the WTO Safeguards Agreement and Section 17 of RA 8800 and its IRR shall be complied with.

The case records will be transmitted to the Tariff Commission for formal investigation to determine whether or not there is a need to impose a definitive safeguard measure.

Let the Order be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and let individual notices be sent to all interested parties including the country members concerned.

SO ORDERED.

01 September 2003

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

ANNEX A

List of Developing Countries Excluded from the Imposition of Provisional Safeguard Measure on Clear Float Glass

East & Southern Africa	West Africa	North Africa	South Asia
Angola	Benin	Algeria	Afghanistan
Bostwana	Burkina Faso	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Bangladesh
Burundi	Cameroon	Libya	Bhutan
Comoros	Cape Verde	Morocco	British Indian Ocean Territory
Congo. Dem. Rep.	Central African Rep.	Tunisia	East Timor
Djibouti	Chad		Maldives
Eritrea	Congo, Rep.		Nepal
Ethiopia	Cote d'Ivoire		Pakistan
Kenya	Equitorial Guinea		Sri Lanka
Lesotho	Gabon		
Madgascar	Gambia, The		
Malawi	Ghana		
Mauritius	Guinea		
Mozambique	Guinea, Bissau		
Namibia	Liberia		
Reunion	Mali		
Rwanda	Mauritania		
Seychelles	Niger		
Somalia	Nigeria		
South Africa	Sao Tome & Principe		
Sudan	Senegal		
Swaziland	Sierra Leone		
Tanzania	Togo		
Uganda			
Zambia			
Zimbabwe			

Europe & Central Asia	Middle East	Americas	East Asia & Pacific
Albania	Bahrain	Anguilla	American Samoa
Armenia	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Antigua & Barbuda	Brunei Darussalam
Azerbaijan	Iraq	Argentina	Cambodia
Belarus	Israel	Aruba	Christmas Is.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Jordan	Bahamas	Cocos (Keeling) Is.
Bulgaria	Kuwait	Barbados	Cook Is.
Croatia	Lebanon	Belize	Fiji
Cyprus	Oman	Bermuda	French Polynesia
Czech Republic	Qatar	Bolivia	Guam
Estonia	Saudi Arabia	Brazil	Hongkong
Georgia	Syrian Arab Rep.	British Virgin Is.	Johnston Is.
Greenland	United Arab Emirates	Cayman Is.	Kiribati
Hungary	West Bank & Gaza	Chile	Korea, Dem. Rep.
Kazakhstan	Yemen, Rep.	Colombia	Korea, Rep. of
Kyrgyz Republic		Costa Rica	Lao PDR
Latvia		Cuba	Macau
Lithuania		Dominica	Malaysia
Macedonia, FYR		Dominican Rep.	Marshall Islands
Malta		Equador	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
Moldova		El Salvador	Midway Is.
Poland		Falkland Is. (Malvinas)	Mongolia
Romania		French Guiana	Myanmar
Russian Federation		Grenada	Nauru
Slovakia		Guadaloupe	New Caledonia
Slovenia		Guatemala	Nieu
Tajikistan		Guyana	Northern Marianas Is.
Turkey		Haiti	Palau
Turkmenistan		Honduras	Pitcaim Is.
Ukraine		Jamaica	Papua New Guinea
Uzbekistan		Martinique	Samoa
Yugoslavia, Fed. Rep.		Mexico	Solomon Islands
		Montserrat	Taiwan
		Netherland Antilles	Tokelau
		Nicaragua	Tonga
		Norfolk Is.	Tuvalu
		Panama	Vanuatu
		Paraguay	Vietnam
		Peru	Wake Is.
		Puerto Rico	Wallis & Futuna Is.
		St. Helena	
		St. Kitts & Navis	
		St. Lucia	
		St. Pierre & Miquelon	
		St. Vincent & the Grenadines	
		Suriname	
		Trinidad & Tobago	
		Turks & Caicos Is.	
		Uruguay	
		US Virgin Is.	
		Venezuela	

ANNEX B

List of Developing Countries Excluded from the Imposition of Provisional Safeguard Measure on Tinted Float Glass

East & Southern Africa	West Africa	North Africa	South Asia
Angola	Benin	Algeria	Afghanistan
Bostwana	Burkina Faso	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Bangladesh
Burundi	Cameroon	Libya	Bhutan
Comoros	Cape Verde	Morocco	British Indian Ocean Territory
Congo. Dem. Rep.	Central African Rep.	Tunisia	East Timor
Djibouti	Chad		Maldives
Eritrea	Congo, Rep.		Nepal
Ethiopia	Cote d'Ivoire		Pakistan
Kenya	Equatorial Guinea		Sri Lanka
Lesotho	Gabon		
Madgascar	Gambia, The		
Malawi	Ghana		
Mauritius	Guinea		
Mozambique	Guinea, Bissau		
Namibia	Liberia		
Reunion	Mali		
Rwanda	Mauritania		
Seychelles	Niger		
Somalia	Nigeria		
South Africa	Sao Tome & Principe		
Sudan	Senegal		
Swaziland	Sierra Leone		
Tanzania	Togo		
Uganda			
Zambia			
Zimbabwe			

Europe & Central Asia	Middle East	Americas	East Asia & Pacific
Albania	Bahrain	Anguilla	American Samoa
Armenia	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Antigua & Barbuda	Brunei Darussalam
Azerbaijan	Iraq	Argentina	Cambodia
Belarus	Israel	Aruba	Christmas Is.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Jordan	Bahamas	Cocos (Keeling) Is.
Bulgaria	Kuwait	Barbados	Cook Is.
Croatia	Lebanon	Belize	Fiji
Cyprus	Oman	Bermuda	French Polynesia
Czech Republic	Qatar	Bolivia	Guam
Estonia	Saudi Arabia	Brazil	Hongkong
Georgia	Syrian Arab Rep.	British Virgin Is.	Johnston Is.
Greenland	United Arab Emirates	Cayman Is.	Kiribati
Hungary	West Bank & Gaza	Chile	Korea, Dem. Rep.
Kazakhstan	Yemen, Rep.	Colombia	Korea, Rep. of
Kyrgyz Republic		Costa Rica	Lao PDR
Latvia		Cuba	Macau
Lithuania		Dominica	Malaysia
Macedonia, FYR		Dominican Rep.	Marshall Islands
Malta		Equador	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.
Moldova		El Salvador	Midway Is.
Poland		Falkland Is. (Malvinas)	Mongolia
Romania		French Guiana	Myanmar
Russian Federation		Grenada	Nauru
Slovakia		Guadaloupe	New Caledonia
Slovenia		Guatemala	Nieu
Tajikistan		Guyana	Northern Marianas Is.
Turkey		Haiti	Palau
Turkmenistan		Honduras	Pitcaim Is.
Ukraine		Jamaica	Papua New Guinea
Uzbekistan		Martinique	Samoa
Yugoslavia, Fed. Rep.		Mexico	Solomon Islands
		Montserrat	Taiwan
		Netherland Antilles	Tokelau
		Nicaragua	Tonga
		Norfolk Is.	Tuvalu
		Panama	Vanuatu
		Paraguay	Vietnam
		Peru	Wake Is.
		Puerto Rico	Wallis & Futuna Is.
		St. Helena	
		St. Kitts & Navis	
		St. Lucia	
		St. Pierre & Miquelon	
		St. Vincent & the Grenadines	
		Suriname	
		Trinidad & Tobago	
		Turks & Caicos Is.	
		Uruguay	
		US Virgin Is.	
		Venezuela	

NFA to import rice under US PL 480

NATIONAL Food Authority administrator Arthur C. Yap announced recently that the government has been granted 140,000 MT of rice worth $40 million under the US PL 480 commodity loan program.

Signed for the government by the Department of Finance, the PL 480 loan involves a long term payment scheme of 20-25 years. The rice to be imported under PL 480 will be monetized by the NFA.

For the rice loan amounting to US$40 million, the commodity and freight tenders will be held between September 15 and 18, 2003 in the United States, Yap said.

Upon the recommendation and approval of the Department of Agriculture, Panalpina, Inc. USA has been appointed as the government's purchasing and shipping agent for the said imports. The rice imports are expected to arrive the country between January and February 2004.

The rice imports are classified as US Grade 2 or better and are fortified with iron.

Yap, on the other hand, also announced the approval of the importation of 150,000 MT of yellow corn to replace the loss in corn production particularly in Cagayan Valley brought about by typhoon Harurot.

The executive committee of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) chaired by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo approved the importation under the tax subsidy expenditure scheme of the national government, Yap cited.

The required arrival of the corn import in the country is between October 1 to 31, 2003. The pre-bidding and bidding for the supply of said commodity are scheduled on September 8 and 10, respectively, at the NFA central office board room to be participated by NFA accredited suppliers.

Yellow corn is being used as a major ingredient for livestock and poultry feeds.

ALAY-LAKAD FOR OSYs HELD
VICE President Teofisto Guingona (second from left) DILG Sec. Joey Lina, DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman and Alay-Lakad President Frank Evaristo, leads walk-for-a-cause for the out-of-school youth at Luneta Grandstand recently which raised more than 1 million in donations and pledges with a theme 'Sa Matatag na Republika Kabataan ang Pag-asa.'

TransCo launches Integrated Traineeship Program

"DON'T expect good things to fall into your lap. You have to compete for it."

This was the challenge TransCo President and CEO Alan T. Ortiz posed to graduating Electronics and Communications and Electrical Engineering students who were on hand to witness the formal launching of National Transmission Corporation's Integrated Traineeship Program on August 15, 2003 at the Waldo Perfecto Building of Saint Louis University in Baguio City. TransCo's top ranking officials were also present, namely SVP and COO Roque F. Corpuz, VP for Human Resources and Finance Alexander B. Cortez, VP for Luzon Operations and Maintenance Guillermo R. Redoblado, as well Heads for North and South Luzon Fernando S. Abesamis and Armando A. Buencamino.

Engr. Boni dela Peña, Dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture, stated that this program complements the University's current thrust towards establishing and maintaining linkages with various industries.

TransCo is the two-year old corporation formed as a result of the passage of Republic Act 9136, or the Power Reform Act, which divided National Power Corporation into generation and transmission companies. Yet already, TransCo is one of the top earning companies in the country to date, with a net income of P16B in 2002 with a streamlined workforce of only around 3,000 employees nationwide. With various major projects and technical services in the works to further improve the delivery of power, TransCo is eager to address this demand by taking in fresh new manpower.

The traineeship program is geared towards training new electrical and electronics and communications engineers in actual field operations. The traineeship program also offers opportunities for graduates of vocational as well as non-technical courses to gain work experience. Qualified trainees shall be compensated from 40 to 70 percent of the prevailing minimum wage as stipend. Only around fifty students who pass the qualifying exams shall be chosen nationwide.

NFA issues warning vs erring grains businessmen

NATIONAL FOOD Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap today warned rice retailers selling government rice against any violation of the agency's rice trading rules.

As of August 25, 2003 NFA's "Operation Palengke Watch Monitor" has already apprehended 22 rice retailers in Metro Manila alone. Among their violations are unauthorized possession of NFA rice, unreasonable depletion of

NFA stocks, selling commercial rice at Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) outlets, selling or lending government stocks to another grains businessman and refusal to sell NFA rice.

Yap said the NFA will continue to conduct daily market monitoring to ensure that affordable NFA rice is available in the market at all times.

"Based on our monitoring, while commercial rice is priced from P17 to P40, NFA rice remains unchanged at P16 per kilogram. We want to make sure that no retailer sells NFA rice higher than this amount," Yap said.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement, Investigation and Prosecution Department(EIPD) has recommended the suspension of rice stock allocation for the apprehended retailers.

EIPD Director Emil Andrion said those grains retailers could could either lose their allocation or totally lose their license to operate their rice outlets.

Andrion said the EIPD has summoned retailers in Pasig found violating NFA rice trading rules during a monitoring held from August 20 to 25. They were apprehended for selling rice without NFA license and for non-display of appropriate signboard.

Yap said the NFA's market monitoring will continue to ensure the stability of the price of rice in public markets nationwide and to discourage retailers from committing violations.

As of August 25, a total of 395 rice retailers have been monitored from 38 public markets.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

B-8-A-B

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

	Declared Owner	Area (sqm.)	Classification/ Delinqcy Date	Tax Dec. Numbers	Amount of Delinquency	Interest Due As of July, 2003	Total Amt. Of Delinquency
1	BERNA HOT CORP OR FLR COM BLDG FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR THIRD FLOOR FOURTH FLOOR FIFTH FLOOR SIXTH FLOOR SEVENTH FLOOR ROOF DECK TYPICAL UPPER AND LOWER BASEMENT PARKING LOT 2 3 4 5 10 11 12 13 BLK 4 REDEMPTORIST ROAD BARANGAY BACLARAN	1 383 63 1 383 88 1 650 58 1 650 58 1 650 58 1 626 65 413 83 1 606 53 906 61 1 462 75 1 383 88 1 383 88	COM /MPVT 1999-2003	E002-06846	15 708 497 55	8 017 524 15	23 766 991 70
2	BERNA HOT CORP ESCALATOR CHILLER PROJECTORS GENSET WATER PUMP ELEVATOR		COM /MCH 1999-2003	E002-06847	2,132,270 25	1,084,091 07	3,216,361 32
3	REDEMPTORIST RD BARANGAY BACLARAN HERNANDO DELA CRUZ ATTY IN FACT OF RUBEN CAMURUNGAN TCT NO 69350 LOT 6-A TCT NO 69352 LOT 6-B TCT NO 69353 LOT 6-C BO BAYO BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	265 127 35 531 110 517 79 079	RES LOT 1999-2003	E010-04114	7,741,708 40	4,837,720 08	12,579,433 68
4	HERNANDO DELA CRUZ ATTY IN FACT OF RUBEN CAMURUNGAN TCT NO 69346 LOT 8-A TCT NO 69347 LOT 8-B TCT NO 69348 LOT 8-C TCT NO 69349 LOT 8-D YULONGO ROAD BOY BF HOMES	87 857 39 662 93 677 12 642 11 896	RES LOT 1998-2003	E001-06813 Paolo J Martinez	7,482,008 40	4,754,763 68	12,236,772 08
5	HERNANDO DELA CRUZ ATTY IN FACT OF RUBEN CAMURUNGAN TCT NO 69351 LOT 15-A TCT NO 69354 LOT 10-B BO BAYO BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	125 169 68 284 56 852	RES LOT 1998-2003	E013-04115	3,634,847 20	2,331,091 60	5,965,938 80
6	L.D. MATHESON DEV CORP TCT (S 5206) 63569 LOT 5 SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY BOY MARCELO	10 000	LAND IND 1981-2003	E006-02882	2,248 550 00	1,548,774 00	3,797,324 00
7	LIMON AGGREGATES INC TCT NO (S 1752) 22859-T-115 LOT 4474-B BOY MARCELO GREEN	10 000	IND L LOT	E006-03059	1,115 000 00	661,500 00	1,776,500 00
8	EDMUNDO S SILVERIO TCT NO (453442) 131540 LOT 8 SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY, BOY SUN VALLEY	5 364 75	LAND IND 1998-2003	E014-04444 PURISIMA H VER	1 109,450 10	673 938 67	1,782,438 77
9	EDMUNDO S SILVERIO TCT NO (453448) 131541 LOT 5 SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY BOY SUN VALLEY	5 000	LAND IND 1998-2003	E014-04442 PURISIMA H VER	1,031,250 00	630,000 00	1,661,250 00
10	WILAND TRAILWAYS CO (VIC) JOY REALTY CORP (New Owner) TCT NO - 132744	2,433	LAND 1998-2003	E013-00026 WILAND TRAILWAYS CO , INC	592 341 00	579,670 72	1,172,111 72
11	METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION TCT NO 69321 LOT 2 DURIAN AVENUE CLOVER DRIVE BOY TAMBO	1,139	COM LOT 1999-2003	E015-00140	781 136 55	490 837 99	1,252,774 84
12	METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION TCT NO 104084 LOT 4133-B 7-A PALANYAG RD INTERIOR DR A SANTOS AVENUE BOY SAN DONSIO	700	IND LOT 1998-2003	E015-00293	68,625 00	52,620 00	120,845 00
13	METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION WARE-OUSE 1ST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR THIRD FLOOR FOURTH FLOOR DR A SANTOS AVENUE BOY SAN DONSIO	266 66 266 00 266 266	IND W/P 1998-2003	E010-00794	592,599 00	370,797 68	963,396 68
14	METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION TCT NO 69322 LOT 2 BLK 3-A MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE BOY MOONWALK	1 048	RES LOT 1998-2003	E008-06204	39 680 20	25,183 68	64,764 18
15	METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION HOUSE FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR LANAI TERRACE PORCH CARPORT FENCE	227 42 152 88 15 12 6 36 140	RES W/P 1998-2003	E008-06205	104 424 00	66,831 48	171,255 48
16	MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE BOY MOONWALK METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION TCT NO 69319 LOT 1-E	240	RES LOT 1998-2003	E008-06231	8 259 00	5,253 12	13,509 12
17	MULTINATIONAL VILL BOY MOONWALK METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION TCT NO 69318 LOT 2 MULTINATIONAL VILL BOY MOONWALK	166	RES LOT 1998-2003	E008-06232	5,778 00	3,677 25	9,456 45
18	METROWORLD PROPERTIES & HOLDINGS CORPORATION TCT NO 69316 LOT 4 MULTINATIONAL VILL BOY MOONWALK	958	RES LOT 1998-2003	E008-06302	34,331 20	21,884 30	56,175 50
19	MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE BOY MOONWALK ARES HOLDINGS INC 30TH FLR PENTHOUSE CCT NO 1641 GOLDEN BAY CONDO CLEVELAND TOWER MARINA BOY DON GALO	515 06	CONDO PENTHOUSE 1998-2003	E004-02715	366 996 50	202,645 44	569 641 94
20	ALFREDO C APO TCT NO (220651) 209132 LOT 2-B SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY BOY MARCELO	451	IND LAND 1993-2003	E006-01259	165 066 00	101,596 77	266 662 77
21	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP TCT NO 68406 LOT 5 LAKE LANAO ST BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	167	RES LAND 1998-2003	E012-03079	3,006 00	1,723 44	4,729 44
22	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR CARPORT FENCE	49 6 57 53 2 25	HOUSE 1997-2000	E012-02080	52,758 16	32,628 96	85,387 12
23	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP TCT NO 68406 LOT 7 LAKE LANAO ST BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	149	RES LAND 1997-2003	E012-02581	3,834 00	2,365 92	6,269 92
24	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR PORCH LANAI CARPORT TERRACE FENCE	49 80 57 50 2 25 7 13 30 22 40 36 34	HOUSE 1999-2003	E012-02582	33,107 28	20,701 56	56,806 66
25	LOT 7 LAKE LANAO ST BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16306 LOT 1 BLK 6 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	167	RES LAND 1997-2003	E012-02958	20,722 00	12,815 76	33,537 76
26	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16313 LOT 2 BLK 2 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	136	RES LAND 1997-2003	E012-02210	3,536 00	2,186 88	5 722 88
27	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16314 LOT 1 BLK 2 CORNER LOT 1		RES LAND 1997-2003	E012-02241	266 00	136 85	402 85
28	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16307 LOT 1 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	2 283	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02212	29 640 00	18,331 20	47 971 20
29	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16305 LOT 2 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	375	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02213	17 914 00	11,079 12	28 993 12
30	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16311 LOT 3 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	91	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02214	4 563 00	2 822 12	7,385 12
31	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16309 LOT 4 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	294	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02215	3,822 00	2,363 76	6,185 76
32	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO 16310 LOT 5 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS	345	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02216	4 485 00	2,773 68	7 258 68
33	BOY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES OCTAVIO YU GUEVARRA TCT 68731 LOT 13 BLK 1 BETTER LIVING SUBD	265	RES LOT 1972-2003	E003-02060	17,900 40	19,153 26	37,053 66
34	BARANGAY DON BOSCO DANILO G ARENAS TCT 29168 LOT 4 BLK 7 EQUITY HOMES	150	RES LOT 1998-2003	E006-04793	3,720 00	2,296 80	6,016 80
35	BARANGAY MARCELO DANILO G ARENAS HOUSE PORCH LANAI AIR TAC CARPORT FENCE	51 4 5 6 9 6 8 8 19 16	RES W/P 1998-2003	E006-04794	16,586 40	12,675 32	31,641 72
36	LOT 4 BLK 7 EQUITY HOMES BARANGAY MARCELO RODOLFO & FLORDELIZA BACAR TCT 16519 LOT 13 BLK 24 SEVERINA	225	RES LOT 2000-2003	E006-04445	3 150 00	1,674 00	4 824 00
37	DIAMOND SUBDIVISION BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN RODOLFO & FLORDELIZA BACAR TCT 16091 LOT 15 BLK 24 SEVERINA	426	RES LOT 2000-2003	E006-04446	6,560 40	3,486 42	10,046 82
38	DIAMOND SUBDIVISION BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN RODOLFO & FLORDELIZA BACAR BUNGALOW	259 75	MPVT 2000-2003	E006-04447	17,750 60	9,433 14	27,183 74
39	LOT 15 SEVERINA DIAMOND SUBD BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN RUBEN E ALONIA TCT 58171 LOT 6 EVANGELISTA ST BOY	228	RES LOT 1998-2003	E006-00456	5,010 00	3,009 60	8,025 60
40	BARANGAY MARCELO RUBEN E ALONIA FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR CARPORT FENCE	63 71 4 10 30	MPVT 1998-2003	E006-00457	26,075 22	15,645 34	41,721 06
				Grand Total			72,349,936 34

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE DISTRAINT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, PAYMENT OF THE TAX WITH SURCHARGES, INTERESTS AND PENALTIES MAY BE MADE. IN CASE OF FAILURE TO PAY THE BASIC REAL PROPERTY TAX OR ANY OTHER TAX LEVIED UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY TAXATION UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIODS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 250 ON PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IN INSTALLMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, OR WHEN DUE, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL SUBJECT THE TAXPAYER TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST OF THE RATE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT PER MONTH ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OF A FRACTION THEREOF UNTIL THE DELINQUENT TAX SHALL HAVE BEEN FULLY PAID, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL THE TOTAL INTEREST ON THE UNPAID TAX OR PORTION THEREOF EXCEED THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS FURTHER AND UNLESS THE TAX, SURCHARGES AND PENALTIES ARE PAID BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE TAX IS DUE, EXCEPT WHEN THE NOTICE OF THE ASSESSMENT OR SPECIAL LEVY IS CONTESTED ADMINISTRATIVELY OR JUDICIALLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 3, TITLE II, BOOK II OF THE CODE, THE DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION AND THE TITLE TO THE PROPERTY WILL BE VESTED IN THE PURCHASER, SUBJECT HOWEVER, TO THE RIGHT OF THE DELINQUENT OWNER OF THE PROPERTY OR ANY PERSON HAVING LEGAL INTEREST THEREIN TO REDEEM THE PROPERTY WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF SALE.

PERSONAL PROPERTY MAY BE DISTRAINED TO EFFECT PAYMENT, AND/OR LEVY UPON THE REAL PROPERTIES OF THE DELINQUENT TAXPAYER TO SATISFY THE DELINQUENCY.

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

(PDI--Sept. 11 & 24, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission invites bonafide bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SECURITY SERVICES Contract for 2004**, SEC Main Office, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

The SEC needs Security Services to secure the entire building offices and parking areas. The approximate budget for the contract is P5,544,000.00.

Bid documents can be secured at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. For further inquiries, please call Asst. Director Romeo O. Dauag or Mr. Norlan M. De las Alas at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be held on:

Date	September 19, 2003
Time	10:00 A. M.
Place	MRD Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building

Eligible Bidders shall submit their bids in two (2) separate sealed envelopes, the Eligibility/Technical Requirement and the Financial Proposal. All documents originating from other government agencies should be Authenticated/Certified True Copies.

The envelopes must be sealed, properly labeled, signed or stamped across the envelope flap.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on:

Date	October 6, 2003
Time	10:00 AM
Place	General Services Division, 4th Floor, SEC Building
To Whom	Mr. Norlan M. De las Alas, BAC Secretariat

Bid submitted after the date/time shall no longer be accepted.

The provisions of Republic Act 9184 and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40 series of 2001 shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post qualification and Award of Contract.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract on the bidder whose proposals as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE AQUINO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 4 & 11, 2003)

dti
Department of Trade & Industry
Philippines

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF THE SAFEGUARD MEASURES CASE AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF GLASS MIRRORS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES (SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 01-2003)

ORDER

The Philippine glass mirrors industry, represented by Asahi Glass Philippines (AGP) filed a safeguard measures protest against the importation of glass mirrors, whether or not framed, classified under HS Code Nos. 7009.9100 and 7009.9200 from various countries. The protest alleged that glass mirrors are being imported in increased quantities and that as a result thereof causes serious injury to the domestic industry.

The period of investigation covered imports from 1997 to 2002. For injury determination, the Department considered relevant information for the same period.

WHEREFORE, IN VIEW THEREOF, the Department of Trade and Industry, acting under Section 7 of RA 8800, the "Safeguard Measures Act," found after preliminary determination that increased imports of the product under consideration have caused serious injury to the domestic industry, particularly in terms of declining market share, domestic sales, capacity utilization, production, employment, profitability and productivity. The industry's prices were also depressed and margins of profits declined. Landed costs of imports were found to be lower than the ex-plant prices of domestic product.

Pursuant to Section 8 of RA 8800 which provides that "**In critical circumstances where a delay would cause damage which would be difficult to repair, and pursuant to a preliminary determination that increased imports are a substantial cause of, serious injury to the domestic industry**" a provisional safeguard measure in the form of a cash bond amounting to P3,560.00 per MT shall be imposed for a period not exceeding 200 days from the date of the issuance by the Bureau of Customs of the relevant Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) on all importations of glass mirrors, whether or not framed classified under HS Codes 7009.9100 and 7009.9200.

However, imports originating from the following developing countries covered by Rule 8.8 of the IRR of RA 8800 shall not be subject to the provisional safeguard measure:

Europe & Central Asia	Middle East	Americas	East Asia & Pacific
Albania Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bosnia & Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Georgia Greenland Hungary Kazakhstan Kyrgyz Republic Latvia Lithuania Macedonia, FYR Malta Moldova Poland Romania Russian Federation Slovakia Slovenia Tajikistan Turkey Turkmenistan Ukraine Uzbekistan Yugoslavia, Fed. Rep.	Bahrain Iran, Islamic Rep. Iraq Israel Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Oman Qatar Saudi Arabia Syrian Arab Rep. United Arab Emirates West Bank & Gaza Yemen, Rep.	Anguilla Antigua & Barbuda Argentina Aruba Bahamas Barbados Belize Bermuda Bolivia Brazil British Virgin Is. Cayman Is. Chile Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Rep. Ecuador El Salvador Falkland Is. (Malvinas) French Guiana Grenada Guadaloupe Guatemala Guyana Haiti Honduras Jamaica Martinique Mexico Montserrat Netherland Antilles Nicaragua Norfolk Is. Panama Paraguay Peru Puerto Rico St. Helena St. Kitts & Navis St. Lucia St. Pierre & Miquelon St. Vincent & the Grenadines Suriname Trinidad & Tobago Turks & Caicos Is Uruguay US Virgin Is. Venezuela	American Samoa Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Christmas Is. Cocos (Keeling) Is. Cook Is. Fiji French Polynesia Guam Hongkong Johnston Is. Kiribati Korea, Dem. Rep. Lao PDR Macau Malaysia Marshall Islands Micronesia, Fed. Sts. Midway Is. Mongolia Myanmar Nauru New Caledonia Niue Northern Marianas Is. Palau Pitcaim Is. Papua New Guinea Samoa Singapore Solomon Islands Tokelau Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu Vietnam Wake Is. Wallis & Futuna Is.

East & Southern Africa	West Africa	North Africa	South Asia
Angola Bostwana Burundi Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Djibouti Entrea Ethiopia Kenya Lesotho Madgascar Malawi Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Reunion Rwanda Seychelles Somalia South Africa Sudan Swaziland Tanzania Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Benin Burkina Faso Cameroon Cape Verde Central African Rep. Chad Congo, Rep. Cote d' Ivoire Equatorial Guinea Gabon Gambia, The Ghana Guinea Guinea, Bissau Liberia Mali Mauritania Niger Nigeria Sao Tome & Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Togo	Algeria Egypt, Arab Rep. Libya Morocco Tunisia	Afghanistan Bangladesh Bhutan British Indian Ocean Territory East Timor India Maldives Nepal Pakistan Sri Lanka

All importers of glass mirrors, regardless of port of exportation, are required to secure a Certificate of Country of Origin (CO) issued by the authorized agency/office in the source country of manufacture as authenticated by the Philippine Embassy/Consulate thereat.

Considering that glass mirrors are covered by the ASEAN-CEPT Agreement, as provided under Articles 6 and 8 of the said Agreement, the Philippines is required to notify and accord adequate opportunity for consultation with the governments of the ASEAN countries concerned i.e. Indonesia and Thailand which maybe affected by the application of provisional safeguard measures on imports sourced from ASEAN countries.

The notification and consultation requirements of Article 12 of the WTO Safeguards Agreement and Section 17 of RA 8800 and its IRR shall be complied with.

The case records will be transmitted to the Tariff Commission for formal investigation to determine whether or not there is a need to impose a definitive safeguard measure.

Let the Order be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and let individual notices be sent to all interested parties including the country members concerned.

SO ORDERED

01 September 2003

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

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LOCATION: Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio, Quezon.

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885-3739 or 555-0002 loc. 3739 and (0917) 627-8288. Offers should be sent Mr. Tejada at Building A, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

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The
Officers and Staff
of the

MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

grieve the loss of our dear

Lilia D. Diaz

March 12, 1957 - September 9, 2003
Assistant General Manager for Finance & Administration

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario De San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City

Interment will be on Saturday, September 13, 2003, at the Manila Memorial Park
after the 1:00 p.m. mass.

We extend our condolences to her family and loved ones.

The pious readers are enjoined to pray for the eternal repose of her soul
as we relish the memories that she left in our hearts.

Mrs. Consuelo Dumlao Carpio-Evangelista

of Paoay, Ilocos Norte and Quezon City

Joined her Divine Creator on September 9, 2003 at the age of 89.

Her husband, **Atty. Filoteo E. Evangelista** (†),

Children
Leticia & **Augusto** (Palomar),
Miriam (†),
Manuel & **Julieta** (Medina),
Grace & **Antonio Jr.** (Arambulo),

Grandchildren
George & **Arlene**, **Sandra** & **Nicolas**, **Arik**, and **Nadia**;
James, **Patricia**, **Arthur**, **Adrian**, **André** and **Victor**;
Angela and **Anthony**

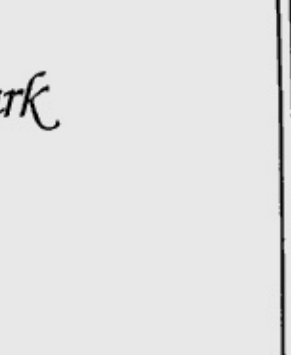
Sisters/Brothers
Leona (†), **Fructuoso** (†), **Victorio** (†), **Remigia** (†),
Quirino (†), **Simplicio** (†), and **Lucas** †)

Nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains now lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Center (Chapel #3) Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on September 13, 2003, Saturday, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."
— 2 Tim. 4:7



ERIC ARJONA ROBAS

Joined his Creator on Mama Mary's birthday,
September 8, 2003 at the age of 39.

His loving wife **LEONY**; children **NIKKI, ION** and **JOLO**; parents **JOB** and **ALICE**; siblings **GLENN & Weng, AL & Deah, FERDY & Olive, JOHN & Lizel, GERRY & Nanette, DEAN & Shirley** and **SHARON & Joel**; in-laws, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 281 M.H. del Pilar St. Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 13, 2003 at Liliw Catholic Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish, Liliw, Laguna.

Apolonio (Pol) H. Bautista

Peacefully joined our Heavenly Father
on Tuesday, September 9, 2003 at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Caring Yatco**; children **Buds** & **Minggoy Patajo**, **Rico** & **Carina**, **Dindo**, **Dodjie** & **Donabel**; grandchildren **Aisa**, **Rina**, **Chrissa**, **Frankie**, **Miggoy**, **Andro**, **Alexis**, **Adrienne**, **Daniel**, **Dia** & **David**; great grandchild **Joshua**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at **Chapel Q** of **Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.**

Interment will be on **Saturday, September 13, 2003** at the **Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.**

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

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FELIPE CALLEJA SERRANO, SR.

of Libon, Albay and Muntinlupa City / Valley View, Cainta

Former President-Phil. School for the Deaf Alumni Assn.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 9, 2003 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Naty**; children **Leno & Baby, Luis & Chit, Junior & Cherrie, Johnny & Christy, Susan & Orlan** and **Cristina**; brother **Manoy Narding (†) & Ate Nene**, sister **Angelina & Greg (†)**; grandchildren **Kaye, Maricel & Allan, Ann (†), Mac, Cholo & Ivy, Maricar, Jill, Jun, Jack, Louielinne, Rizza, Don, Luigi, Joe, Jon, & Christian**; great grandchild **Chol** other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment to be announced later.

So Dearly Remembered

on his

Second Death Anniversary

DR. ENRICO SAYOC-BELEN

who died on September 11, 2003.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember **Rico** or **E.O.** in their prayers.

So lovingly remembered...
So sadly missed....

On the Second (2nd) Death Anniversary of

RUFINO C.F. (ROY) SANTOS III

Feb. 19, 1964 - September 11, 2001
at the WTC, New York, NY

We lovingly remember him by offering Holy Masses at the following churches:

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church .....6:30 am & 6:30 pm
N. Garcia St., Bel Air, Makati City

The National Shrine of Sacred Heart ..... 6:00 am, 6:30 am, 7:00 am, 12:15 pm & 6:00 pm
Dao, San Antonio Village, Makati City

St. John Bosco Parish Church ..... 7:30 am & 12:15 pm
Arnaiz St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City

Santuario de San Antonio ..... 12:15 pm & 6:00 pm
Forbes Park, Makati City

St. Roque Parish Church ..... 6:00 am
Pateros, Metro Manila

San Pedro Parish Church ..... 6:00 am
San Pedro, Laguna

Immaculate Conception Parish .....8:00 am & 6:00 pm
Antipolo City

Holy Masses will also be offered at St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, NY, St. Vincent de Ferrer, 868 Lexington, New York, NY, St. Thomas More, Alhambra, CA, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, BC, Canada and St. Paul Church, Richmond, BC, Canada.

His family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Y. Chen D.P., JCL

Founder and Rector
of St. Joseph School, Naga City

Date of Birth – January 17, 1922
Date of Death – September 8, 2003 (6:15 p.m.)

Interment : September 12, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.
Holy Rosary Major Seminary
(Cemetery for Clergy)

Ma. Corazon Asi Leido-Isip

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 9, 2003 at the age of 38.

Her beloved husband **Raymond Marvin**; children **Ma. Katherine Camille, Ma. Francine Krisela & Ma. Sofia Filomena**; parents **Vicente P. Leido Jr. & †Filomena Asi**; brothers **Butch & Nedie, Rod**; sisters **Myra & Ricky**, and **Tina**; parents-in-law **Fidel Isip, Jr. & Ma. Paz Enriquez**; in-laws **Rowena & Edward, Margie & Mike, Charlie & Sarah, Noel & Lizette**, and **Kristine**; **Tita Lily Ylagan**; nephews, nieces, other relatives & friends request the readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 13, 2003 at the Garden of Assumption, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

John 3:16

Capt. ELIGIO M. CAMPAÑA, M.M.

of Imus, Cavite
April 12, 1918 - September 9, 2003

His loving wife **Ester Topacio Campaña**; children **Roberto** and **Remedios, Benjamin** and **Rosita, Apolonio** and **Filipinas, Elizabeth** and **Jessie**; sister **Generosa C. Ocampo**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sapinoso Funeral Homes, Nueno Avenue, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will follow at the Imus Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Imus Cathedral on Sunday, September 14, 2003.

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS & STAFF

MOURN THE DEMISE OF ITS CHAIRMAN

COMMODORE GREGORIO L. LIM (Ret.)

WHO DIED ON SEPTEMBER 08, 2003
AT THE AGE OF 82.

HIS REMAINS LIE AT THE LOYOLA CHAPEL, GUADALUPE, MAKATI CITY.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON SEPT. 12, 2003, 8:00 A.M. AT LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI.

CLASSIFIEDS

NFA palay buying on high gear

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has now put in place its logistics nationwide in time to buy the palay of farmers from the main harvest.

National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap said the agency's regional offices presently have at their disposal a total of P52 million for palay procurement starting this month.

A total of 446 buying stations have also been strategically located by NFA in various production areas of the country, ready to buy palay from farmers as the agency optimizes palay buying for the last quarter.

He added that the NFA central office has started remitting the cereal procurement fund to the field offices to finance palay buying. With the recently signed memorandum of agreement with the Philippine National Bank increasing the agency's credit ceiling with the bank to P3 B, palay procurement and other pro-poor priority programs of the agency are assured of sufficient financial support.

"We are optimistic that we will be able to meet our procurement target of 277,190 metric tons or 5.593 million bags of palay for this year's main cropping," Yap said.

He also cited that aside from augmenting the inventory in its warehouses, the agency's palay buying provides the farmers with an alternative market for their produce giving them the chance to realize better income from their production.

For this year's main harvest, the agency is buying palay at P9 per kg exclusive of the P.50 per kg incentives for drying, transport and cooperative development fee for the build-up of post harvest facilities of farmers organizations.

As the main harvest jibes with the rainy months, Yap has ordered the agency's field offices to allow the farmers to use the agency's drying facilities for their drying requirements.

Depending on the palay's moisture content, the NFA charges a drying feeranging from P18 to P25 per bag for the use of its dryers facilities.

The agency has 343 units of palay driers of various brands nationwide with a total drying capacity of 206 tons per hour that can be used by farmers for their drying needs.

Shangri-La Plaza

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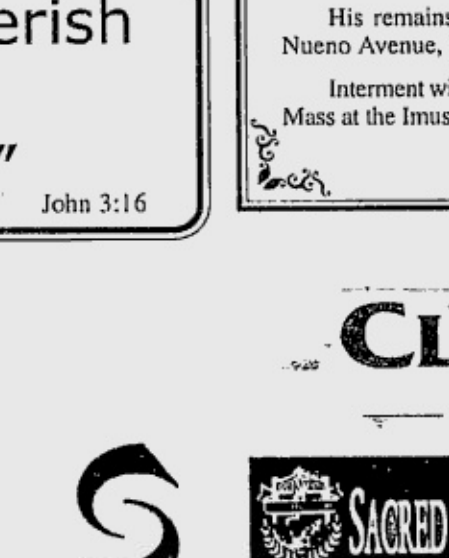

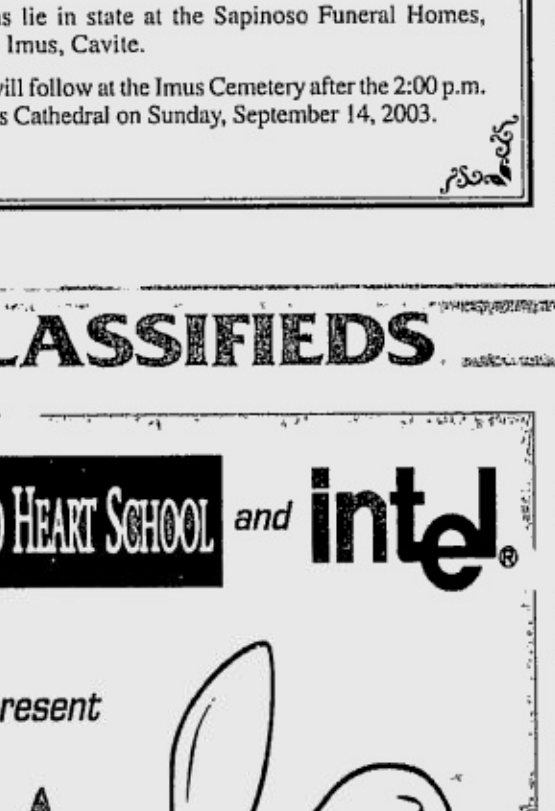

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date: September 10, 2003
Contract No. BCMD.2003-003

1. Contract No.: BCMD.2003-003 Supply and Delivery of A New Multi-Role, Single-Engine Helicopter
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supplying and delivering a new multi-role, single-engine helicopter to TRANSCO.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P83,000,000.00.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors who have the legal technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by TRANSCO in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance on September 12, 2003 at the Bids and Contract Management Department, Ground Floor, Power Center, BIR Road Corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104. Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of letter of intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before October 6, 2003 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors, not yet included in the TRANSCO's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors/suppliers upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledge or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive and required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

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BUSINESS

RP may pay more on debt after default

THE PHILIPPINES may have to pay higher interest rates on its foreign debt following Argentina's default on an International Monetary Fund (IMF) repayment, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said Wednesday.

"The price of debt will probably go up because of the (expected) contagion effect but it will be temporary," Buenaventura told reporters.

Investors will soon realize that the Philippines' debt profile is different from that of Argentina even though the two countries are counted in the same investment basket as emerging markets, he said.

"The government will borrow by October or November, at which point, even Argentina will have found a way to a compromise," Buenaventura said.

Argentina has failed to make a $3-billion payment to the International Monetary Fund, pushing the Latin American country into an overall default on its foreign debt.

Officials there said, however, that they are determined to work out some arrangement with the IMF to refinance its debt and said the decision was meant to preserve Argentina's foreign exchange reserves.

Asian dollar bonds, meanwhile, shrugged off the massive debt default by Argentina, with analysts saying that most emerging market investors have already written off the large Latin American economy. *AFP*

Argentina defaults on record $3-B IMF debt, official says

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina defaulted on a $3-billion debt to the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday, a government source said, the biggest single missed payment in the IMF's history and one that is likely to further isolate the precarious economy.

The default, which comes nearly two years after Argentina racked up the biggest sovereign debt default ever in the throes of economic collapse, means Latin America's No. 3 economy joins the ignominious ranks of IMF defaulters like Liberia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

"The deadline expired. Argentina did not pay. There is a technical default, but of course the negotiations are still ongoing," the government source said on condition of anonymity.

Cabinet chief Alberto Fernandez told a news conference the government was still working with the IMF to secure a "sustainable and socially acceptable" aid agreement, but carefully side-stepped explicitly confirming the default.

"We would liked to have got all this in order sooner, but sometimes things don't work out ... sometimes there are delays, but we are calm," Fernandez told local radio afterward.

The IMF was not immediately available for official comment on the default, which comes as Argentina was striving to reach a crucial aid deal with the IMF to roll over $12.5 billion owed over the next three years.

However, many economists expect some kind of deal to be forged in coming days or weeks, and played down the default's importance in the near-term. It could take at least a month before the IMF institutes any sanctions and penalties.

The economy has shown tentative signs of recovery in recent months under the stewardship of highly popular new President Nestor Kirchner.

But the default is another nail in the coffin for investor confidence in Argentina, still a pariah for many investors after the government stopped making payments in January 2002 on what is now $90 billion in defaulted, privately held debt.

Kirchner's new left-leaning government opposes IMF austerity plans and refused to use around a quarter of its international reserves to pay Tuesday's debt.

Thousands of unemployed protesters, including mothers pushing strollers and men waving placards such as "No to the IMF, Yes to education and bread!" paraded in downtown Buenos Aires, where people often label the IMF the "International Misery Fund."

Kirchner, part of a growing number of Latin American leaders reluctant to follow Washington-encouraged pro-market reforms, argues that he must place priority on helping around half the country of 36 million people that live in poverty. *Reuters*

Asian stocks slide on SARS

SINGAPORE—The apparent return of the deadly SARS virus shook Asian stock markets on Wednesday as airline shares tumbled, overshadowing fresh signs of a reviving Japanese economy.

An upward revision to Japan's gross domestic product growth figures triggered intervention by the country's central bank to prevent the yen from strengthening, traders said, leaving the dollar little changed.

Japanese government bonds crept higher as stocks fell, while oil and gold prices hardly budged.

Tokyo's Nikkei average fell 0.6 percent from Tuesday's 14-month high to close at 10,856.32. An MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific fell three-quarters of a percent from a three-year peak.

Airline stocks, and the Hong Kong market in particular, were hard hit by confirmation a medical researcher in Singapore had tested positive for SARS, which ravaged Asian tourism earlier in the year.

A fall in US shares following a revenue warning from top mobile phone maker Nokia also undermined Asian shares.

"SARS has affected sentiment, but the market was due for some profit-taking," said Herbert Lau, research director at Celestial Asia Securities in Hong Kong, where the Hang Seng Index was 2 percent weaker at midday.

Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. tumbled 4.2 percent on concerns there could be a new SARS outbreak ahead of China's national day holiday in October, when many mainlanders are expected to visit Hong Kong.

Shanghai-based China Eastern Airlines Corp. Ltd. shed 6 percent and its larger rival China Southern Airlines Co. Ltd. tumbled almost 5 percent.

Japan Airlines System and Eva Airways also slumped, but Singapore Airlines was flat after falling 6 percent on Tuesday.

The Singapore dollar also firmed on confidence the SARS case was an isolated one. The World Health Organization said the case did not meet its definition of the disease.

Benchmark indices fell 1.25 percent in Singapore, 0.6 percent in Australia and one percent in Taiwan. South Korea was closed for a holiday. *Reuters*

A SOUTH Korean protester sits next to an anti-WTO banner in Seoul. The slogans read (from left): "social, cultural, politics, education , trade, economy and agriculture." REUTERS

Global economy to grow, analysts say

WASHINGTON—The global economy will defy grim predictions by bouncing back in the next 12 to 18 months, led by resurgent US and Asian economies, top international economists forecast.

The bullish outlook is menaced, however, by the threat of a spike in energy prices, a shock to emerging confidence, uncertain levels of private investment and the bulging US current account deficit.

World economic output is set to expand by 2.5 percent in 2003 when compared to a year earlier, speeding to 4.25 percent growth in 2004, ex International Monetary Fund chief economist Michael Mussa said Tuesday

"I think we are looking at a new beginning at least for the global economy," Mussa told a twice-yearly conference here hosted by the Institute for International Economics.

In the first half of 2003, the global economy had suffered slow US growth, near-zero European growth, SARS in Asia, and a weak Latin America, Mussa said.

But "in the second half of the year I think we are undoubtedly looking at a substantial pick-up in global growth to about a 4 percent annual rate that should be pretty well sustained at least through 2004," he said.

Germany and perhaps a few other European countries would lag, but most of the world would share in the recovery, he said.

Growth would rise from 1.5 percent this year to 3 percent in 2004 in the United States, from 1.5 percent this year to 2 percent in 2004 in Japan and from 0.75 percent to 2.0 percent in Western Europe, he said.

In developing Asia, growth would be ramped up from 5.5 percent in 2003 to 7.0 percent in 2004, with China speeding from 7.25 percent to 7.75 percent and India from 6.0 percent to 6.5 percent.

Over the next year and a half, swings in oil prices could boost or drag down the performance.

Stock markets, consumer and business confidence also were at risk because many people had built in expectations of a robust recovery, Mussa said.

"It looks like the world economy is now in for a substantially more buoyant period with Germany and perhaps one or two other places in Europe lagging but with most parts of the world economy sharing in the sharp pick-up," said Institute for International Economics director Fred Bergsten. *AFP*

Japan grows at fastest rate in two years

TOKYO—Japanese economic growth quickened at its fastest clip in two and a half years in the April-June quarter as companies stepped up spending on machinery to feed strong demand for exports, revised data showed on Wednesday.

The figures supported the view that Japan is on the mend after its worst postwar downturn, although many economists still harbored doubts about whether the growth would stay as strong, particularly after a cool summer that has dampened demand.

The government said real gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 1.0 percent in April-June from the previous quarter, up from an initial reading of 0.6 percent.

On an annualized basis, Japan's economy expanded 3.9 percent, exceeding growth of 3.1 percent in the United States, the biggest single destination for Japanese exports.

"There's no doubt the economy is recovering, but the figures are probably overstating it," said Toshikimi Kaneki, an economist at Sumitomo Trust and Banking.

Merrill Lynch economist Takuji Aida said the economy was not likely to enter a phase of strong and sustained growth until the end of the fiscal year starting next April 1.

"Japan's economy is still laden with structural weaknesses. I don't think the 3.9 percent annualized growth rate is sustainable," Aida said.

The GDP figures, which are adjusted for price changes, showed spending on plant and machinery rose 4.7 percent from the previous quarter, also the biggest rise in 10 quarters. The government had initially reported a 1.3-percent increase.

As evidence of an improving climate for business, Casio Computer Co. Ltd. said on Wednesday that strong sales of digital cameras and watches would help it easily beat its profit forecast of six billion yen ($51 million) for the first half.

The GDP figures were within expectations and market reaction was generally restrained, but there was speculation that Japanese authorities had intervened to hold back the yen from rising too much against the dollar. *Reuters*

Nations to fight over subsidies in trade liberalization talks

CANCUN, Mexico—Deeply divided over the make-or-break issue of farm subsidies, rich and poor countries begin five days of talks on Wednesday aimed at preparing the ground for a deal to tear down barriers to global trade.

Progress at the meeting in the Mexican beach resort of Cancun would be a shot in the arm for the still-fragile world economy.

Stalemate would encourage governments to strike deals with each other, sapping the strength of the multilateral trading system overseen by the World Trade Organization and possibly splitting the world into rival blocs.

"Failure is not an option. It would send a very damaging signal around the world about prospects for economic recovery and would result in more hardship for workers around the globe, particularly in poorer countries," said Supachai Panitchpakdi, a Thai who is the WTO's director general.

Supachai has the Herculean task of reconciling the conflicting interests of the WTO's 146 members so they can meet a self-imposed deadline of agreeing a new round of market-opening measures by the end of 2004.

At the heart of the negotiations is the vexed issue of agriculture, and two days of preliminary skirmishes showed why the talks have crawled along since they were launched in Doha, the Qatari capital, in November 2001.

Poor countries say rich states must deliver on the promise they made in Doha and slash the $300 billion in subsidies they dole out each year to their farmers—six times more than they provide in development aid.

Because of these handouts and high tariffs, poor countries say they are not only shut out of rich-country markets but find they are often undercut at home by heavily subsidized exports from the European Union and the United States in particular.

Yet something is stirring at Cancun. Poor countries are waking up to the clout they wield in an organization that operates by consensus, and are forging ad-hoc alliances to try to wring concessions out of the industrial world.

So on Wednesday, after an opening speech by Mexican President Vicente Fox, four west African cotton producers will demand an end to rich-country subsidies, especially from the United States, that they say are wrecking the lives of millions of farmers.

On the other hand, Philippine trade negotiators led by Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, have vowed to push for the preservation of privileges, or the so-called special and differential treatment, granted to developing countries.

Roxas added that the Philippines' ongoing tariff review, which sought to realign tariff rates was one of the government's efforts to protect the country's interest and to refuse making further liberalization commitments until domestic industries are fully developed.

"At Cancun, we shall advocate tariff schemes that will not widen the gap between countries whose tariff rates are still high and countries like the Philippines who have already decreased their tariff rates to low ranges," he said. *Reuters, Michelle V. Remo*

ANTI-DUMPING

Anti-dumping is a term used to describe a policy where a nation adds an import duty on to foreign products which are cheaper than their own.

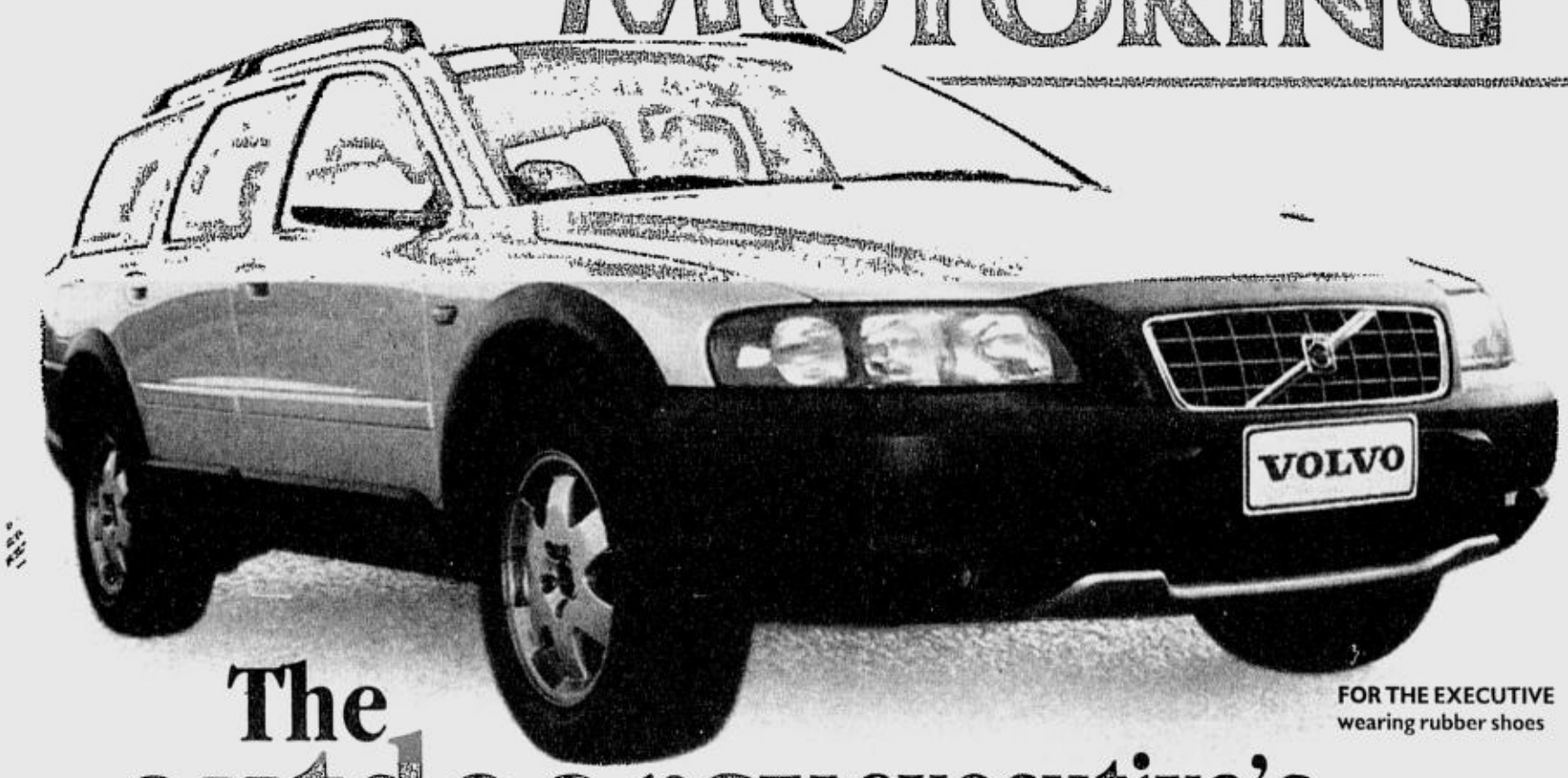
Anti-dumping actions initiated January 1,1998 to December 31, 2002

Source : WTO

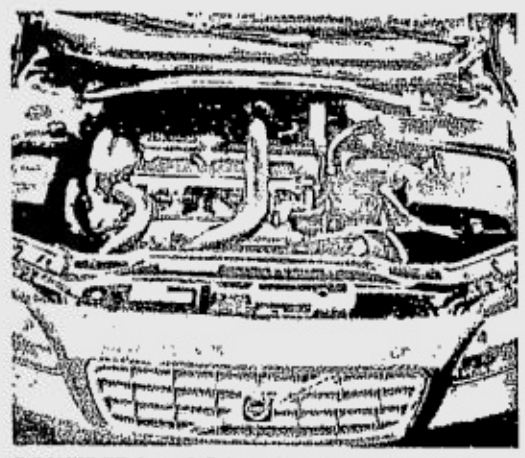
MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

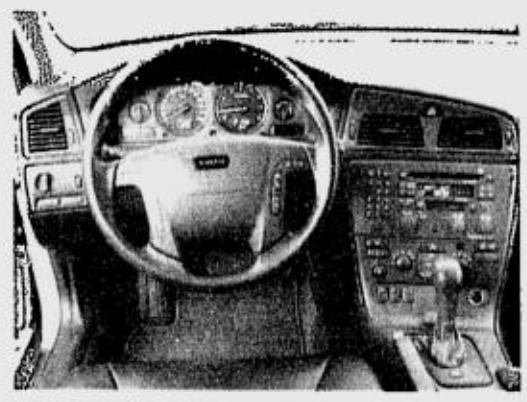
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



FOR THE EXECUTIVE wearing rubber shoes



POWERED by a 2.5-L turbo-charged engine



THE DASHBOARD is typically European.

PHOTOS BY ALEX LOINAZ

The outdoorsy executive's guardian angel on wheels

By Tessa R. Salazar

YOUR car may brag all the sound and the fury, but can it keep you alive when all hell breaks loose outside? If you think Volvo's styling is bland, Volvo couldn't care less, as long as its passengers get to their destination safe and sound.

Volvo has come a long way since it came into being in 1927. In 1970, it was said to have formed the Volvo Accident Investigation Team. The team researched more than 30,000 individual accidents and has made improvements accordingly in automobile safety design, many of which have since been adopted by other carmakers.

Many firsts

It also has many of firsts, the latest of which is the side-impact protection structure (SIPS) installed five years before it became mandatory (1992) and the world's first side-impact airbags introduced in 1995. The 2000 Volvo introduced the Whiplash Protection System (WHIPS), the 2002 seatbelt pretensioners for all seven seats (XC90), the 2002 inflatable curtains for all three rows of seats (XC90), in 2003 the world's first SUV with Roll-Over Protection System (ROPS) and Roll Stability Control (RSC).

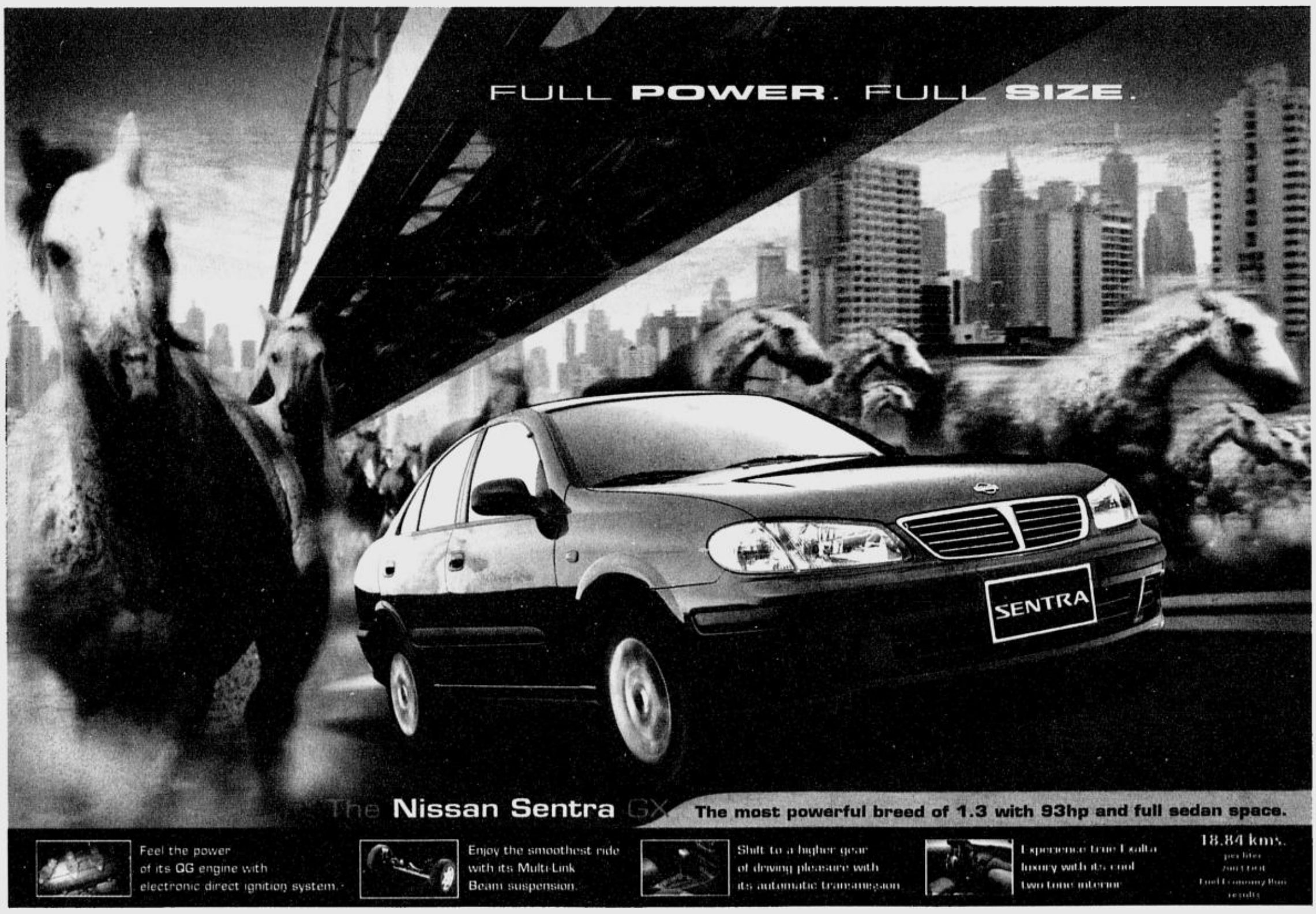
Volvo even keeps a "Volvo saved my life" club testimonials, others manifested by ads that have Volvo passengers testifying they are alive today after a potentially fatal mishap.

Volvo's safety technologies are considered so advanced that even the most powerful government in the world studied it. Rumor has it that the US government bought a bunch of Volvos and subjected them to all kinds of torture, including suspending them from a crane and dropping them down straight to the concrete. Didn't the alien craft at Roswell do the trick, gentlemen?

Going beyond the facts and myths of its safety features, each Volvo unit is a character by itself. One Volvo variant has been made for the executive wearing rubber shoes (believe it or not, there's an increasing market for this, says Viking Cars Inc., exclusive distributor of Volvo in the Philippines) who would gladly go up the mountain, down the beach, or to a farm every so often.

If their "other" luxury car can't take

THE OUTDOORSY/ C2



Angelo Barretto: The racetrack as his stage

THIS year, another Filipino takes center stage for the first time. Not in the magnificent and daunting halls of theater but in a venue that is not only as impressive, but intimidating—the racetracks.

That is Angelo Barretto, the first Filipino race car driver who has won a variety of medals and awards in international races like the International Group N Endurance Championship.

He was awarded the following citations in the respective events: first place, BMW M3-Class 3 Champion, 16th Overall Worldwide—BMW Sport Pokal Trophy; first place, Spa Francorchamps, Belgium; first place, Hockenheimring, Germany; and first place, Nogaro, France.

Barretto will soon participate in the forthcoming seasons of the prestigious American Le Mans Series (ALMS) and its ultra competitive ACo counterpart in Europe this year.

The ALMS is recognized as the most challenging sports car endurance championship in the world. It is considered the battlefield of the top teams and manufacturers who are out to prove that they are the best.

The ALMS actually takes on the rich tradition of its French motoring heritage, the Le Mans 24hr race, that is held every year in the Sarthe region of France. Le Mans is every race car driver's dream—the apex of his career.

Barretto's participation in these two racing events clearly shows the Filipino's drive to aim for better things and gain world-class recognition.

Childhood dream

Barretto's love for the wheel began as a childhood dream. He was inspired by big names in the Philippine car racing circuit, among them Jovy Marcelo and Pocholo Ramirez whose careers he emulated.

Barretto started as a karting enthusiast in Carmona and provided the momentum for a colorful and exciting career in the world of motor sports. His first taste of recognition began with the 1998 China Formula Campus Championship and the 1999 Southeast Asia Touring Car Zone Challenge.

This was followed by the AF2000 race at the 46th Macau Grand Prix where he became the best Filipino name on the Guia Circuit of Macau since Pacholo Ramirez 20 years before.

Filipino recognition

Not intimidated by the difficulties of competition, Barretto's meteoric rise in popularity is characterized by an unwavering drive to make it in even bigger and better international matches.

He says his dream is to make the Filipino recognized in the international racing circuit. While it may be a simple dream indeed, the road to success is often difficult to hurdle.

For Barretto, getting to the top must be a combination of speed with knowledge. The game plan must be one that is meticulously strategized at all angles—on or off track.

Fresh from his participation in the Spa Euro Race, Spa-Francorchamps in Brussels, Belgium, Barretto and his team climbed as high as 4th out of 60 race participants in the competition. They were at Le Mans the weekend after and are already preparing for that specific challenge in 2004.

This early, Barretto tests his abilities at a Proximus 24-Hour Race at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium. This will be followed by two more competitions in the ALMS in September and October which are the prequalifying races for Le Mans 2004 in France.

The racetracks have become Barretto's motivational tool. They have provided him with the determination to succeed and make every Filipino proud. This is Angelo's "stage,"—and the Le Mans? His "aria."

BARRETTO was part of the team that won the Le Mans Classic. FILE PHOTO

SHOWN after the contract signing confirming Caltex's participation as presenter of the car show are, from left: TSI president Sophie delos Santos, Caltex Phils. GM Steven Mulvaney and lubricants manager Jojo Sacdalan.

Caltex launches new engine oil at car show

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc. will unveil the new Caltex Delo Sport engine oil at the 2003 Caltex Delo Sport Truck and Custom Car Show slated on Oct. 1-5 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Show sponsor Caltex will be putting the spotlight on the newest addition to its lubricants line, Delo Sports. The oil product is a synthetic-based engine oil designed for sports utility vehicles (SUVs), 4x4s, and pickups of American, European or Japanese make, especially those with turbochargers, superchargers, intercoolers and EGR systems.

SUVs, 4x4s and pickups are equipped with high-performance engines that are used mostly in severe high-temperature conditions such as stop-and-go city traffic, long-distance weekend traveling and off-road driving.

Proven to perform

Delo Sports is poised to satisfy these demands because it is formulated using industry-leading advanced base-oil and additive technology and it exceeds the highest American Petroleum Institute performance standards.

It has also been proven to perform in the most extreme of conditions and that is in off-road racing competitions.

Said Caltex lubricants category manager Jean-Ernest Maningo: "There is no better venue to demonstrate our product's performance than in off-road racing. The impressive results from the actual use of Delo Sports in the recent off-road races give us a lot of confidence in the product. We have heard the needs of the SUV and pickup owners in the modern-day driving environment and so we developed Delo Sports. We want our customers to carry on with their lifestyle without the hassle of vehicle breakdowns due to poor engine lubrication."

Best vehicles

Organized by TradeShow International, the 2003 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show will showcase the best cars in motor racing, off-road vehicles, pro-street cars, monster SUVs and wild custom cars.

The event also serves as a avenue for automotive-related companies to introduce their latest products.

The show is also sponsored by Ambi Pur Car Freshener, Sunrise Holiday Concepts, Samsung, Digital Resources, 105.1 Crossover, Citylite 88.3, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and Wave 89.1.

More on the excise tax; BMW milestone

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I THINK the idea, other than the perceived added government revenues, behind the passing of the new excise tax law on vehicles is sound: attract more foreign investments for the assembly of cars in the Philippines. I refer mainly to cars that are for the not-so-wealthy, the ones in the P600,000 or below category; that's because they are the cars with the lowest excise tax available, thus, making them very affordable to Filipinos becoming first-time car owners or to those in the upper middle-income bracket wanting to either change cars or own a "spare" car.

It's been pointed out that the new tax measure would soon send car manufacturers to roll out vehicles according to the common standards of Filipino car buffs: reasonably priced, yet good-looking cars. As you know, most Filipinos are generally known worldwide to go for external looks when buying cars. Seemingly, when it comes to cars, beauty is skin deep to them.

Investors should also find this idea appealing: Tax incentives are being dangled for assemblers going full throttle in producing more and at the same time exporting their produce. In the scheme of things, the government is expecting sales locally from 250,000 to 3,000,000 in the next three years—50,000 of them sold abroad. For the record, 85,587 locally assembled vehicles were sold last year compared to 76,670 the previous year. That's an increase of 12 percent.

It seems too late in the day—the peso weakening as it is while deliberations on the new tax scheme dragged on—but it is hoped that everything will turn out right in the end. We all know that the new excise tax, before it was finally signed into law by GMA, has caused a lot of problems to our car companies. But as the saying goes, all's well that ends well. Bottom line: We all want everybody to be happy—government, automakers and, most important of all, the buying public.

* * *

I got many reactions to my piece on traffic signs becoming sources of corruption in the metropolis. A lot sent in actual places where said signs are being blatantly ignored by drivers, mostly those driving buses and jeepneys.

The modus operandi is simple. A bus driver, or jeepney driver, either loads or unloads passenger/s in front of signs that read "No Loading/Unloading or No Stopping Anytime." Mostly, if not all the time, traffic enforcers make no effort to enforce the law. For turning a blind eye, traffic enforcers—police or MMDA personnel—get a fee. The fees, needless to say, are collected at the end of the day and then distributed to all concerned. From top banana, down to the collector/barker.

The common reaction of my readers: "It's been going on since time immemorial."

I rest my case.

* * *

I didn't know the BMW Golf Cup International is held yearly in 35 countries, with over 150,000 players in attendance, until Jose "Pepito" R. Alvarez wrote me a letter that contained details of the tournament. In the Philippines, Alvarez is doing his own share as Prestige Cars Makati will hold the qualifying event tomorrow, Friday (Sept. 12), at Sta. Elena.

"Winners in this qualifying tournament will advance to the Philippine National Finals in October," said Alvarez, president of Prestige Cars BMW. "The winners in the Philippine National Finals will represent the BMW Group Philippines in the World Finals set at Caesar Park Penha Longa Golf Resort in Portugal on Nov. 3-8 this year."

It has been claimed—rightfully, I believe—that the BMW Golf Cup International, participants-wise, is the largest amateur golf competition in the world with over 150,000 contestants entered annually. Simply incredible. Even the entire cast of participating athletes in the Olympics suddenly becomes midget.

I wish Mr. Alvarez all the success for this momentous BMW occasion set to unfold tomorrow at Sta. Elena.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Many cabbies in the metropolis continue to practice their I-choose-my-passengers policy. Government moves to curb this remain inutile.

The outdoorsy executive's guardian angel on wheels

From page C1

the rigors of the trip, the Volvo XC70 All Wheel Drive (AWD) will do it like a willing Labrador on a forest trip, ears wiggling in excitement. Volvo has engineered the XC70 as the first true luxury crossover vehicle.

This writer had an opportunity to traipse with one silver XC70. With professional passengers Eisele Buntua, Francis Samonte, Mikki Gozon and Lesley Ng in tow, and later on accompanied by auto technologist Alex Loinaz and some other INQUIRER hitchhikers, I observed the XC70 exhibited its character—a genuine go-anywhere car that doesn't ask any compromises.

The 'Hannibal look'

At first glance, its front profile looked like a muzzled Hannibal Lecter (what with the black plastic fenders and bumpers in front). But maybe it was just my imagination.

But there's a reason for the black plastic fenders. You don't have to worry about scratching the car paint when loading things in the back luggage, or when you bump onto something up front. That's why the fenders are unpainted. Fender flares are plastic, so that they would be easy to replace once they're damaged.

Out of the box(y)

This Volvo wagon might be plain looking, but definitely it's a Volvo that has graduated from the typical boxy look. The edges are rounded. The style is a combination of ruggedness and conservatism.

GO-ANYWHERE car

The car is heavy (curb weight is 3594 lb; gross vehicle weight of 4873 lb), with chunky wheels and tires. The tires are big (215/65H 16 alloy Scorpion Pirelli tires), and a high ground clearance (8.1 inches).

It's an outdoor vehicle for mom and dad, but junior can use it too (hey, what kid doesn't want to drive a P2.9-million wagon to show off to the *barkada* (gang), huh?)

Quiet elegance

The moment you open the door, step inside and close the door, you know you're in a different class of a car. The thud of the door closing, by itself, speaks of quiet elegance.

Fender flares are all plastic. They show the macho, rugged look. The battery of the XC70 is also neatly tucked at the back, under the luggage area.

Negligible lag

The half-second lag in engine response is negligible. But once the engine kicks in, it goes all the way.

Even with sudden braking at 100 kph, the car's direction still went straight. We noticed the car body seemingly lowered to hug the road when we stepped on the brakes. The XC70 seemed to squat to lower its center of gravity to make it more stable.

Coupled with that motion was the car's ABS getting down to work. We felt the ABS working its magic as the mechanism alternated on the right and left wheels, constantly adjusting the stopping motion.

The transmission sounds like symphonic music when we floor it. The calming sound even at high revs seems to be the result of Volvo's light pressure turbo engine. The turbo actually absorbs all of the expanding gases, optimizing combustion as well.

For the Philippine climate, the "W" button normally used in cold, snowy climates can be useful as well. Normally, the "W" button is used for better traction on wet or muddy surfaces. Perfect for our secondary (even tertiary) provincial roads.

Initially, we noticed the steering wheel a bit too firm for comfort, but as Alex Loinaz explained to us, the steering wheel of the Volvo could be what is called "progressive": the steering gets firm when speeds go up. When the steering's too soft at high speeds, the tendency to steer out of control is greater. Boy, count on Volvo to cover everything.

The 2.5-liter, 5-cylinder light pressure turbo engine delivers 210 horsepower at 5,000 rpm and a torque of 236 at 1,500-4,500 rpm (ft/lbs SAE net).

Outside noise is aptly muffled once you're inside. The interior styling, as expected, is conservatively styled. The dashboard, by itself, is typical European. Access to controls is within reach of the fingertips.

Just like the other Volvo models, the integrated GSM phone is a cool feature. Insert one's Sim card on its small hole and chat to friends on the other line via its speaker phone.

Verdict: This may be the only multi-million-peso property you buy that you'd want some mud splattered on. Ride the XC70, and thank God you're alive in this era to enjoy such a technological marvel.

THIS Volvo has graduated from the typical boxy look.

The 7th generation Honda Accord

HONDA Accord

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE HONDA Accord and Toyota Camry have been arch rivals in the medium-size passenger sedan market ever since the first Camry came out in 1983 to compete with the Accord, which was introduced in 1976. When Honda Cars Philippines Inc. unveiled the seventh-generation 2003 Accord last June, almost a year after Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. had launched the fifth-generation Camry, the contest between the two cars grew more exciting because of the cutting-edge technologies involved.

Like Toyota, Honda employed all the technological and engineering advancements in its arsenal to come up with a class-leading, trend-setting car. But unlike Toyota, which offers the 2002 Camry with two engine choices (2.4-liter and 2.0-liter), Honda chose to field only the 2.0-liter Accord, not the 2.4-liter four that is the Accord's base engine in the US and that replaced the 2.3-liter SOHC engine of the 1998 model.

Confidence

This shows confidence on the part of Honda that the '03 Accord's twin-cam, 16-valve, 2.0-liter i-VTEC engine fusing VTEC's Valve Lift Control with VTC's Variable Valve Timing Control and producing peak horsepower of 152 ps @ 6,000 rpm and 19.0 kg-m @ 4,500 rpm max torque while increasing fuel efficiency and reducing emissions, can hold its own against the 2.4 Camry's 157 hp engine.

Proof: On the Skyway, the Accord hit 140 km per hour before I realized it, so smooth and so swift was the acceleration. (Too bad I had to slow down because the rain was pouring down in sheets.) The '03 Accord's new 5-speed automatic transmission (AT) with Grade Logic Control, replacing the previous model's 4-speed AT, undoubtedly contributes to this peppy performance. The new Accord (P1.398 million for the VTi-L) is available with AT only, ditto the Camry which has a 4-speed AT.

If you were to place the 2003 Accord beside the 2002 Camry, you would think that it is smaller. But the Accord is actually 6 mm longer and 11 cm wider although 50 mm lower in height. Moreover, the VTi-L Accord is shod with 16-inch tires, the Camry's are 15-inchers. Perhaps the lower height, plus the lower ground clearance (155 mm versus the Camry's 165 mm) makes the Accord look more compact and lithe.

Grip and precision

The sporty stance and muscular styling of the totally redesigned Accord are validated by its crisp handling, cornering grip and precision on the road. I found the steering quick and informative, the turning circle fairly tight and the chassis excellently balanced. Attribute these to the improved suspension geometry featuring double wishbone suspension with stabilizer up front, 5-link double wishbone with stabilizer at the rear. A hybrid engine mount system and increased torsional body rigidity enhance stability and riding comfort while a rear floating subframe and strategically layered lightweight sound insulating materials minimize noise, vibration and harshness. The new Accord's coefficient of drag has been improved to 0.30 from its predecessor's 0.33 but still lags behind the Camry's 0.29.

Although the '03 Accord looks deceptively smaller than the '98 model, cabin space has increased due mainly to a stretched wheelbase. Trunk space has enlarged to 753 liters and here is enough head room for two six-footers sitting in the back with plenty of leg room. All the seats are big, comfy and well-bolstered. The VTi-L's front seats are power-adjustable, the driver's seat is fitted with lumbar support and is height-adjustable eight ways. Leather seats and woodgrain trim are standard in the VTi-L.

Outstanding features

The Accord VTi-L's outstanding interior features are the leather-wrapped telescopic steering wheel with integrated audio control paddles, separate air con controls for driver and front passenger, a 6-disc in-dash CD player/radio tuner, big gauges and meters that illuminate progressively, a lockable glove box and a Euro-style side-door pocket with bottle holder in every door. There are many other amenities and conveniences in the Accord. The only thing lacking is an accessory power outlet.

Aside from creature comforts, the '03 Accord has a complete array of safety features: dual front airbags, side airbags for the front occupants (in the VTi-L), 3-point pretensioner seatbelts, neck shock mitigation seats, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS (anti-lock braking system) and EBD (electronic brake force distribution) and Honda's G-CON (Gravitational Force Control Body Structure) crash safety design that absorbs collision impact in three progressive stages. The Accord's new wave-blade key provides keyless entry and remote control of windows, doors and the trunk.

Now, do you still wonder why the '03 Accord won the Japan Car of the Year Award for 2002-2003? Solidly built, refined and amazingly nimble for a midsize sedan, the Accord qualifies as a family vehicle as well as an upscale executive car.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If progress means to move forward, what does Congress mean?

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

RPN AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 2:30 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

ARE rear spoilers necessary for more stability when driving at high speeds?

—Gary Rivera from Gapan City, Nueva Ecija

Theoretically, rear spoilers are meant to increase downforce on the rear of the car at high speed. Most spoilers, also known as wings, can create some downforce and may actually help some cars' handling characteristics at high speed.

But the truth is, spoilers are designed for race cars that take corners at 120 miles an hour—speeds at which wheels can actually start to lift off the ground. At these speeds, they really make a difference. But for day to day driving, spoilers don't do much.

Spoilers are derived from race vehicle aerodynamic aids. They're designed to use the wind—when the car is traveling at high speed—to force the rear end of the car downward. That's supposed to help keep the rear wheels planted more firmly on the pavement, which helps you maintain traction.

And the reason that's useful, even with front-wheel drive, is that no matter which wheels are powered by the engine, you want to have all four wheels on the ground for cornering, braking and just plain stability. But as mentioned, most road cars do not need this aerodynamic effect and wings are predominantly used as a styling element to dress up one's ride.

These days, aftermarket spoilers are probably among the most popular body modifications with the sport compact and they come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, construction materials and quality levels.

So if you boil it right down to size, the main purpose of spoilers is plain and simple: They're there to get the girls' attention!

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DION poses with Chrysler Crossfire automobiles REUTERS

Celine Dion, the new voice of Chrysler

THESE days, Celine Dion is not only headlining 200 shows in a $95-million, 4,000-seat theater being built at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. She has also become the new spokesperson for top American automotive brand Chrysler.

The Chrysler Group of DaimlerChrysler AG recently launched a multimillion-dollar partnership with international diva Celine Dion that incorporates a wide range of marketing, promotional and advertising activities.

Multimedia ad campaign

The images and music of Dion will be featured in an extensive multimedia advertising campaign spanning print, broadcast and the Internet. It also includes her personal appearances, special consumer promotions, dealer tie-ins, interactive communications, owner communication, retail initiatives, television programming and recording tie-ins.

The ads use four new songs from Dion's album "One Heart" where she appears in the Pacifica and Crossfire TV spots featuring the song "I Drove All Night" and the Sebring Convertible spot with "One Heart." She can also be seen with her toddler son Rene Charles in the Town & Country Minivan spot to the tune of "Have You Ever Been in Love." And though you won't catch her in the PT Cruiser spot, you can hear her singing "Love Is All We Need."

Important role

Chrysler believes that the Canadian chanteuse rightfully personifies the Chrysler brand slogan "Drive and Love." Dion will play an important role in repositioning the Chrysler brand because she embodies the essence of all Chrysler vehicles—beauty, romance, sophistication and refinement.

"I'm truly excited about this partnership," said Dion. "It just feels right to be working with a group of men and women who are so passionate about what they do. The Pacifica and Crossfire are beautiful examples of passion. And yet, as a mom, I expect to be spending a great deal of time behind the wheel of my new Town & Country Minivan."

Dion's management prides on partnership between its star artist Celine Dion and the Chrysler line. "With its reputation for excellence and its emphasis on personal style, the Chrysler brand is a natural marketing partner for this global superstar. We're thrilled to be working with DaimlerChrysler's brand on this unique marketing partnership effort, and look forward to bringing our shared messages to the people across the country," said Thomas D. Mottola, chair and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment.

With new and redesigned Chrysler vehicles coming in over the next 18-24 months, the corporation's strategy is to move the Chrysler brand more upscale by attracting younger, more affluent consumers to its passionately designed, precisely engineered vehicles. Chrysler sees its collaboration with Dion as a pivotal strategy to help achieve this goal.

Chrysler is distributed in the Philippines by Norkis Automotive Resources Corp. and its franchise dealers.

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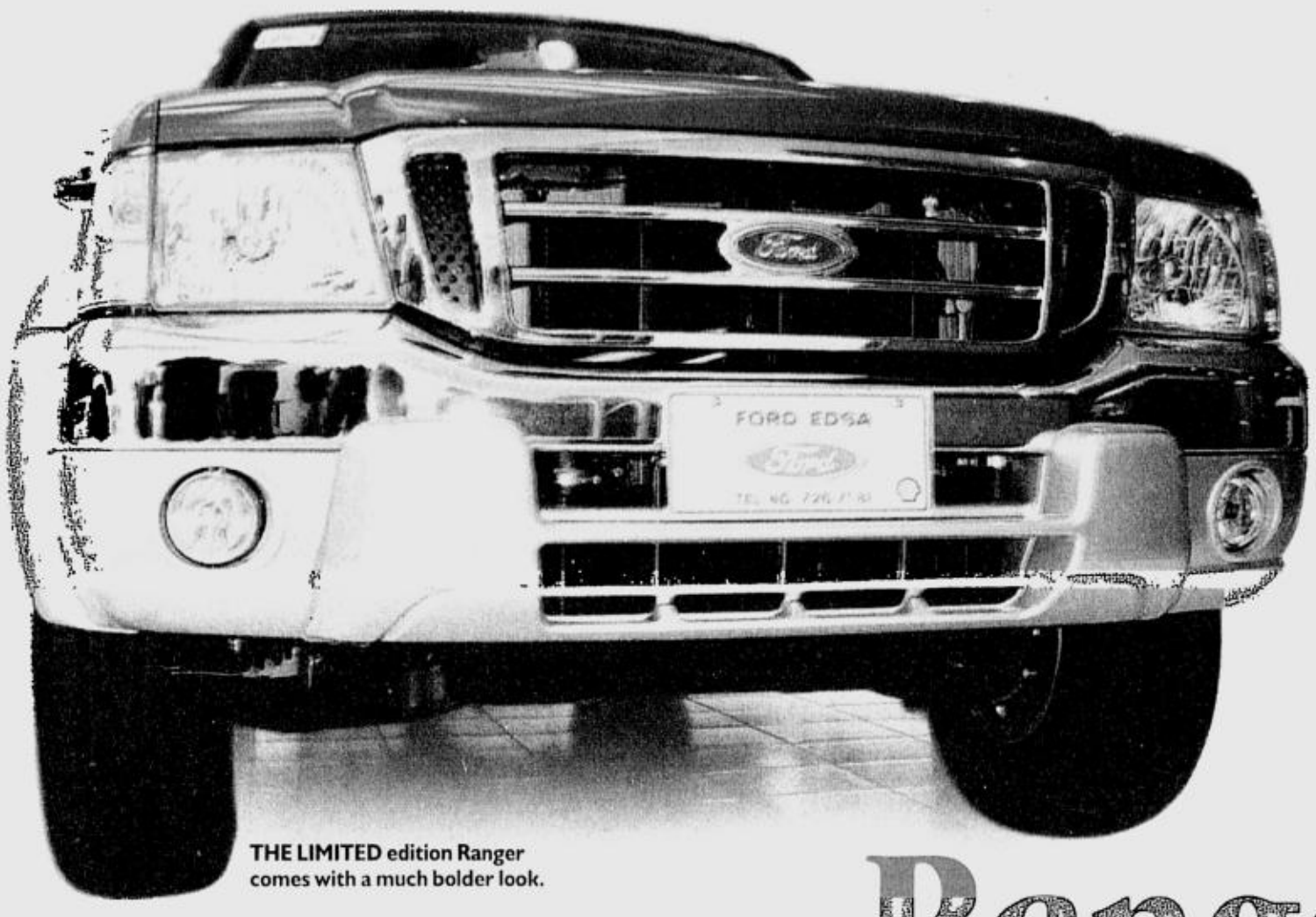

THE LIMITED edition Ranger comes with a much bolder look.

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New Ranger combines good looks and power

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

WELL, its only a matter of time before Ford Philippines make available to this market a Ranger that has it all: good looks and powerful engine.

Just last month, the Laguna-based vehicle manufacturer and importer finally launched its limited edition 4x4 Ranger at the Ford Edsa showroom.

As the name implies, this pickup is limited to only 100 units.

Priced at P1.034 million, the limited edition Ranger carries rugged styling as emphasized by its integrated bumper overrider and fog lamps, clear combination lamps, wider two-tone wheel arch moldings and paint as well as a 15-inch alloy wheels that is biggest in its class.

The pickup's exteriors were enhanced to make it look more masculine than its regular model, the 4x4 XLT.

Hardworking vehicle

For a growing number of individuals (mostly businessmen), even young families, the limited edition Ranger is a sensible choice.

"The limited edition Ranger was designed to be a hardworking vehicle that is excellent for both business and leisure trips as well as to serve other needs of its enterprising owner," described Ford Philippines president Henry Co.

The limited edition Ranger is also powered by a 2.5-liter intercooled turbo diesel engine that can deliver up to 117 horses and maximum torque of 280 Nm.

This pickup can be a versatile weekend workhorse since, in combination with its 4x4 drivetrain, can easily pull a 1,800 kg load.

Safety and comfort

What separates the limited edition Ranger to the rest of the pickups out there are the safety and comfort features bestowed by its manufacturer and exporter, the Auto Alliance (Thailand) Co. Ltd., a Ford Motor company.

The limited edition Ranger is the only pickup in its class to employ antilock brakes that provide its driver maximum control of the vehicle during dangerous braking situations.

Its occupants are further protected by the pickup's side-impact beams and dual airbags.

With its two-stage rear leaf springs and double-action shock absorbers, the limited edition Ranger offers smoother ride.

Combined with a responsive steering system, indeed this pickup will provide its driver total control.

Refinements

Ginia Domingo, Ford Philippines brand manager for Southeast Asian brands, said limited edition Rangers carries several other refinements to separate it from its regular model.

"The limited edition Ranger has leather-trimmed seats, a pair of sidestep boards to make stepping into the pickup much easier, and it comes with a premium single in-dash CD system, hi-fi tweeters and front and rear speakers," she enumerated.

Add to these features, the pickup also carries Ford door scuff plates to reduce scratches despite constant rugged use, chrome door handle protectors to enhance the vehicle's rugged styling and a ribbed bed liner to allow efficient drainage during wet conditions.

Domingo added that the limited edition Ranger is now available at all the 15 dealerships nationwide.

"Note that our price applies to preexcise tax rates so expect the price tag to jump around 4 percent after the new tax system becomes effective and it wouldn't hurt you much if you buy one immediately," she advised.

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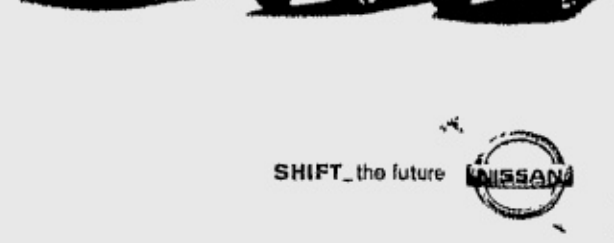

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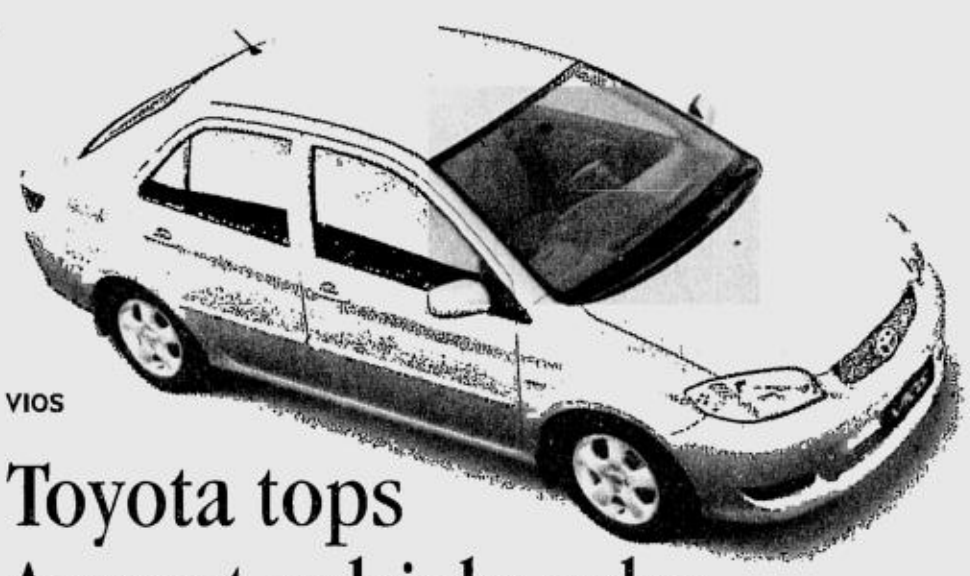

VIOS

Toyota tops August vehicle sales

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. bucked the slump that hit the automotive industry last month and continues to reign as the best-selling vehicle maker in the country.

Based on the latest figures from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), Toyota remains on top by selling a total of 2,413 vehicles last month with an increase of 13 percent from sales of the same month last year.

On top of market sales

Its year-to-date total sales of 18,134 posted a 13-percent growth from last year keeping the company on top of market sales.

Toyota also registered the highest sales output in the passenger-car and commercial-vehicle category in August.

Coming in second to Toyota in market sales for August is Honda Cars Philippines, which reported sales of 1,642 units and a market share of 19 percent. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines came in third with sales of 1,424 units.

Car sales

The Corolla Altis together with the new Vios once again strengthened Toyota's dominance in the passenger-car category by contributing in its total sales of 671 units last month posting, however an expected decline of 45 percent from July.

Honda ran second with car sales of 282 units in August while Mitsubishi placed third with sales of 135 units. The new Vios with sales of 269 units outsold its closest rival Honda City last August which sold 200 units.

CV category

In the commercial vehicle category, Toyota emerged on top with total sales of 11,974 units last month. Drawing strength from the strong sales of its Revo, Hiace and RAV4 models as well as its customer financing promo, Toyota managed to capture almost 25 percent of the commercial vehicle market last month.

The customer financing promo it implemented for the RAV4 proved to be so successful with sales reaching 283 units, the highest since its introduction three years ago.

Trailing behind Toyota is Isuzu with 9,635 units sold or a market share of 19 percent. Mitsubishi closed in at 9,125 units sold with an 18-percent market share.

All Toyota dealers continue to offer the best vehicle-financing plan to its customers through the Toyota Financial Services. TFS offers the customers flexible plans, lower interest rates and customized vehicle acquisition deals designed to suit the individual financial capacity of the customers.

All special offers are available in all authorized Toyota dealers nationwide.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Healthy recipes need not be boring

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

TO give our dieting and health-conscious readers new ideas on meal preparation, we focus today on recipes that are refreshingly healthy. Here we have garlicky Poached Fish with an oriental sauce bursting with flavors, Kilawin with lettuce, *singkamas* and *suha*, and Poached Chicken with dipping sauces.

Poached Fish with Garlic Sauce

800 g fish such as black *lapulapu*, *tilapia*, *apahap* or *mameng*
¼ c gin
4 thin slices of ginger, cut into thin strips
2 tbsp corn oil
Sauce:
1 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp oyster sauce*
1 tbsp white sugar
1 tbsp rice wine*
½ tsp sesame oil*
¼ c fish stock (water in boiling fish)
Topping:
¼ c fried garlic (bottled or homemade)
2 tbsp chopped spring onions/leeks

To clean the fish, remove the gills, slit the stomach open and remove all traces of blood and all internal organs. Rinse well in cold running water. Remove the scales with the use of a knife or fish scaler and rinse again in cold water.

Place the fish in a shallow dish and pour the gin over the fish. Stuff the stomach with ginger strips. Allow to marinate in the gin for at least 15 minutes to remove the fishy odor.

Meanwhile, fill a deep casserole three-fourths full with water. Lower the fish into the boiling water and allow to boil for 10 minutes. Test the fish for doneness. The eyes must be round, opaque and very white. Immediately transfer the cooked fish to a serving platter. Garnish with fried garlic and chopped spring onions/leeks.

Heat up the corn oil in a small frying pan until it reaches its smoking point. Immediately pour the hot oil over the fish. Combine the in-

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY		
Cereal and milk Soft-boiled eggs Bread Margarine and fruit jam Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Chicken *tinola* Rice Papaya with *calamansi*	Bean sprout salad Fish with garlic sauce Rice Fruit gelatin
TUESDAY		
Whole wheat *pandesal* Tuna sandwich spread Cheddar cheese Coffee, hot chocolate or hot tea Fresh pineapple	Tossed greens with olive oil and balsamic vinegar Beef steak with onion rings Rice *Guyabano* shake	Mussel soup *Pancit canton* *Minatamis na kamote*
WEDNESDAY		
Hotcake with butter and sugar-free syrup Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Bananas with yogurt	Poached chicken with dipping sauce Vegetable *chopsuey* *Pandan* rice Almond jelly	Coleslaw salad Fish *sarciado* Breaded porkchop Rice Mocha roll
THURSDAY		
Cottage cheese Pan-grilled sodium reduced meat loaf *Pandesal* Coffee, hot chocolate or fresh fruit juice	Eggplant salad Beef *bulalo* Rice *Mais con hielo*	Instant cream of mushroom soup Baked chicken macaroni Garlic bread Mocha ice cream
FRIDAY		
Oatmeal with low-fat milk Sautéed sardines Green tea bread Coffee or hot chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	*Talbos ng kamote* salad Chicken and pork *adobo* with pineapple Rice *Guyabano*	*Ampalaya* salad *Paksiw na pla-pla* Rice Fresh fruit salad
SATURDAY		
Omelette Loaf bread Butter and cheddar cheese Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	*Misua* soup Meat balls with sweet and sour sauce Rice Crema de fruta	Tossed green salad Paella *Lechon kawali sa* turbo Green tea ice cream
SUNDAY		
Garlic rice *Paksiw na isda* Coffee or hot chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	*Kilawin* Pork and chicken barbecue Java rice *Maja blanca*	Clear soup with tofu and mushrooms Sukiyaki Japanese fried rice Fruit gelatin

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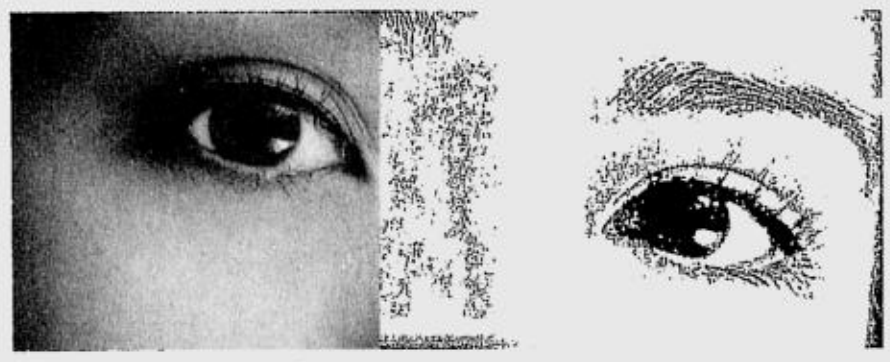

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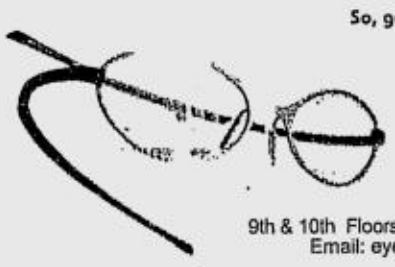

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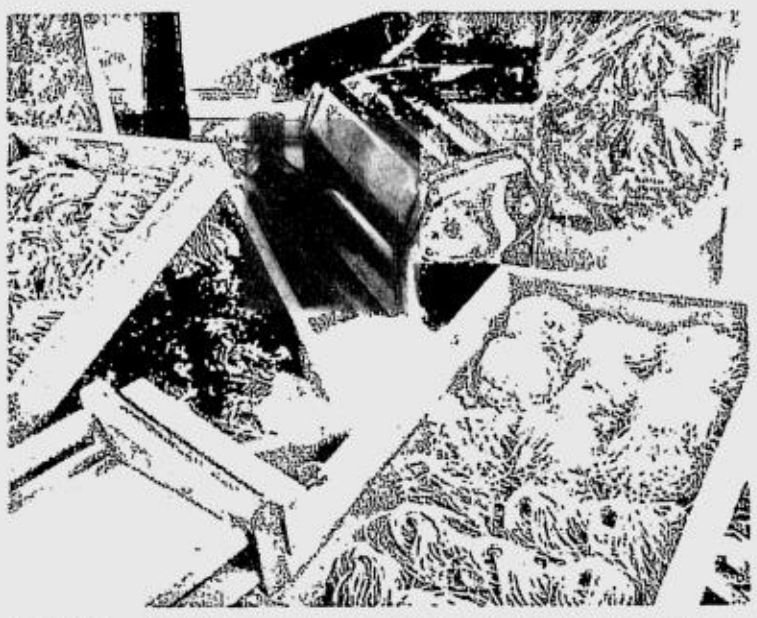
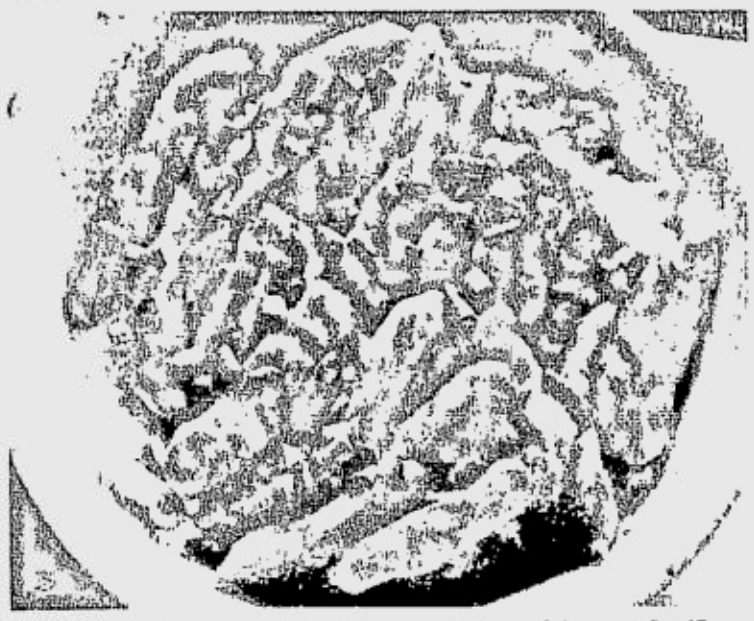


EDSA Shangri-La's Paparazzi presents "Passion for Pasta," which features a la carte dishes like saffron tagliatelle with roasted lobster, garganelli with scallops and asparagus, artichoke casconcelli with goat cheese and lemon sauce and sauces such as guiseppe, boscaiola, putanesca, salsiccia and carbonara and bolognese. Call 6347373/6338888.



PACIFIC Wharf Restaurant presents Pacific Baked Oysters, Pacific Dory fillet, Seafood Paella, Baby Back Ribs, Southwest Chicken, Malaysian Style Squid, Bourbon Chops and Mango Crepe. Pacific Wharf is located at Tomas Morato Street, Quezon City.

New and improved Pinoy pandesal

THE FRENCH Baker recently launched the "Pinoy Pandesal" at SM Megamall, with Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas as special guest.

The launch was in support of the government project "Pinoy Pan de Sal, Piso lang," which aims to address the concerns of bakers and consumers regarding the price and quality of the Pinoy breakfast staple.

The French Baker Pinoy Pandesal uses bromate-free and Vitamin A-fortified *harina de pandesal*, a special flour blend which uses a lesser amount of imported hard red spring wheat. It was developed by the Philippine Federation of Bakers Association, Inc. and San Miguel Corporation's Purefood's Flour Division.

To achieve greater flavor and a longer shelf-life, the Pinoy Pandesal is then baked using the traditional French baking method, which involves a long fermentation technique to bring out the natural goodness of the bread.

Pinoy Pandesal, sold at P20 per pack, is already available in all of The French Baker's 30 stores in Manila, Pampanga, Valenzuela, Dau and Metro Cebu.

THE FRENCH Baker's Johnlu Koa is joined by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas in preparing the Pinoy Pandesal.

Get 'A taste of Mexico'

HYATT Regency Manila presents "A Taste of Mexico" at Cafe Al Fresco today until Sept. 28. It features tacos, tortillas, fajitas, pescados and mariscos, stews and desserts spiced up with chilis and salsas. Call 8331234.

DINING OUT

RASA at the Coliseum Center in Araneta Center features Singaporean fare like Hainanese Chicken, Singaporean Chili Crab, Laksa with Prawn, Black Pepper Prawn, Fish Head Curry and Ice Kachang. Other must-haves include the Black Pepper Prawn, a dish of crisp-fried tiger prawns spiked with searing cracked black pepper sauce and the Fish Head Curry, cooked in creamy coconut sauce and enhanced with specially selected spices—a classic Indian recipe.

BURGOO American Bar is giving away free seafood gumbo to all grandparents who will dine in at the restaurant on Sept. 14. Burgoo is located at Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle Diliman, QC; 3/L Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; and 2/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 8981815/6875254.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Thien Duong Restaurant features Hanoi's Best until Sept. 17. A la carte dishes are available for lunch and dinner. Call 8673333.

HOLIDAY INN Galleria Manila's Monet Bar-Lounge and Raphael Cafe-Restaurant features a carrot-pineapple drink this month. Called Cool Innspiration, the drink has gin, fresh carrot and cherries. Every order comes with a stuffed toy. Call 6337111.

POPEYE'S Chicken and Biscuits offers Group Value Meals of New Orleans-Style Fried Chicken, rice, side dishes, buttermilk biscuits and drinks for P199. Popeyes has outlets at SM Southmall, Robinsons Metro East, New Farmers Plaza, Robinsons Galleria, Filinvest Festival Mall-Alabang, Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Bicutan and Greenbelt 1

TGI FRIDAY'S, Italianni's and Outback Restaurants offer chops, pasta and chicken dishes to HSBC cardholders. Use your HSBC credit cards when you dine at any of the three Bistro Group restos and avail of promo coupons for a minimum bill of P500. Coupons are valid for dine-in until Nov. 30.

LITTLE Asia on Tomas Morato, QC has added new dishes like Sea Bass in Creamy Dill Sauce, Cantonese Fish Fillet, Fish Fillet Salad, Five Flavor Honey Squid, Mandarin Spareribs, Kung Pao Chicken and Gabi Cake to its menu.

SUPER Bowl of China at Festival Supermall Alabang now offers delivery services within the Alabang, Parañaque villages, Las Piñas and Pasay areas. Just dial 7378888 and have your favorite dim sum, barbecue and roast dishes, seafood, chicken, beef and pork entrees and desserts delivered to your homes or offices.

Business opportunities for the holidays

IT'S TIME to think of some moneymaking projects so you wouldn't find yourself empty-handed come Christmas. Here are Maya Kitchen's business courses for this month.

On Sept. 20, Saturday, try your hands at Bakery & Bakeshop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn the commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes, including costing and production batching.

Sept. 27, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is Pasta Classics class, covering Lasagna, Chicken Canneloni, assorted pasta dishes and sauces like Garlic, Fettucini, Carbonara, Puttanesca, Pesto and Negra and homemade pasta.

Cake Decorating (Basic), also scheduled on Sept. 27 and Oct. 4, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will tackle cake decorating, coloring, designing, template creation, sugar icing, basic flower-making, and other decorating fundamentals.

Visit the Maya Kitchen from Tuesday thru Friday at the 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City, call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108, or e-mail them at mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

cosmopolitan

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Cookies and crepes in cooking show

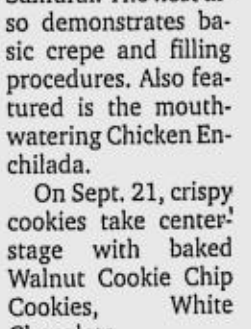
THIS month, "A Taste of Life," hosted by culinary expert Heny Sison and assisted by Jackie Ang and Jane Paredes, whips up an exciting variation of dishes in easy-to-follow recipes.

On Sept. 14, 11 a.m.-12 nn, the show goes crepe-sy as it features different flavors and variations of crepes, among them Chicken Crepe Lasagna and Crepe Samurai. The host also demonstrates basic crepe and filling procedures. Also featured is the mouthwatering Chicken Enchilada.

On Sept. 21, crispy cookies take center-stage with baked Walnut Cookie Chip Cookies, White Chocolate Macademia Nut Cookies and Chocolate Rum Raisin Cookies. Chicken 'N Tomato Parcels and Shepherd's Pie are also featured.

It's Bar Chow Time on Sept. 28 as the show sizzles with mouthwatering cuisine like Baked Mussels, Chicken Tenders, Seafood Gambas, Spicy Pork and Chicken Kebab.

"A Taste of Life" is one of IBC-13's most-watched shows for its easy-to-follow recipes.



Cooking with pili

THE USE of *pili* fruits in cooking in the province of Sorsogon will be demonstrated at the ongoing Gayon Bikol Festival in Intramuros.

The *pili*, which is indigenous in the Bicol Region, grows abundantly in Sorsogon and is one of the province's premier products. It is considered a "majestic tree." Sorsogonons not only consider its fruits health food but have also found uses for the leaves, branches, cap and trunk.

The most well-known part of the *pili* is the nut from the fruit that is made into sweets. But, unknown to many, the pulp covering the nutshell is also edible and nutritious.

Blanching the fruit in hot water makes the pulp soft so that it can be easily removed and used as ingredient in different recipes. The pulp resembles sweet potato in texture and its oil is comparable to high grade olive oil. It contains protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and fibers. Here are some recipes using the *pili* pulp:

Pili Pulp Pastilla

1 c *pili* pulp
1 pack Nestlé all-purpose cream
1 can condensed milk
lemon rind
1 box choco crunch
900 g powder milk

Combine all ingredients except powder milk and choco crunch. Cook until thick, flatten on tray and cool. Cut into pieces and roll in powder milk and choco crunch. Wrap in colored cellophane. Garnish with *pili*.

Pili Pulp Vegetable Dip

1 c *pili* pulp
1 c mayonnaise
2 packs Nestlé all-purpose cream
2 Maggi cubes
½ c Baguio pepper
½ c celery
1 pack Maggi Flavor-it
2 tbsp Maggi Savor Hot Chili Seasoning
1 tbsp pepper white

Place all ingredients in a blender, process until smooth. Pour into a serving dish. Serve with chilled vegetables.

Pili Pulp Cocktail Punch

(Good for 50)
2 c *pili* pulp
3 packs Nestlé Lemonade Pomelo
1 c fresh orange juice
3 c fresh apple, pared and sliced
3 c fresh pineapple chunks
2 c honey
1 gallon Nestlé Mineral Water
1 bottle Carlo Rossi red wine

Put all ingredients, except lemonade pomelo, water and wine, in a blender. Process until smooth. Transfer mixture into a mixing bowl. Add water, lemonade pomelo, honey and ice. Serve with ice. Garnish with oven-toast *pili* nuts.

Pili Pulp Cassava Bibingka

2 c *pili* pulp
3 c Nido milk
1 pack all-purpose cream
½ c honey
1 can condensed milk
4 c cassava shredded
200 g cheese
½ bar butter
2 tbsp lemon rind
For garnishing:
200 g cheese grated
1 c *pili* nuts toasted
12 pcs cherries
1 c *pili* pulp cooked with condensed milk
1 pc medium size egg
Serve: 25 covers 4x3

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl and stir until smooth. Pour to mold. Cook in moderately hot oven until half baked. Garnish by spreading *pili* pulp to tablespoon of grated cheese, *pili* nuts and cherries. Brush with beaten eggs. Return to oven until baked.

Serve cold.

TRUFFLE OIL NOW AVAILABLE
Pietro Coricelli truffle oil, a very high-quality olive oil with an extremely potent, rich and earthy flavor, is now available in all leading supermarkets nationwide. Create more flavorful dishes with this prized ingredient.

Healthy recipes need not be boring

From page D1

gredients for the sauce in a medium bowl. Pour over the fish and serve immediately.

Kilawin

½ kg fresh fish fillet (*lapulapu* or *tanguingue*)
½ c *sukang paombong*
2 tbsp *calamansi* juice
2 tbsp *sukang paombong*
1 tsp corn oil
1 tsp salt
½ tsp fish sauce (*patis*)
freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 head lettuce, torn into pieces and chilled
2 tbsp finely chopped white onions
2 tbsp finely chopped tomatoes
1 tsp finely chopped ginger
½ c *singkamas*, cut into strips and chilled (optional)
1 c pomelo (*suha*) chunks, chilled (optional)

Wash the fish fillet in cold running water. Cut into chunks and transfer to a glass or stainless mixing bowl. Pour in ½ c native vinegar and allow to stand at room temperature for at least 30 minutes. The fish will become white. Drain the fish and transfer to another glass or stainless bowl. Pour in the *calamansi* juice, native vinegar, oil, salt, *patis* and black pepper. Mix well and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

When ready to serve, arrange lettuce leaves in a serving platter. Top with the cold marinated fish. Sprinkle onions, tomatoes and ginger over the fish and garnish with *singkamas* and chunks of pomelo if desired.

Poached Chicken with Dipping Sauce

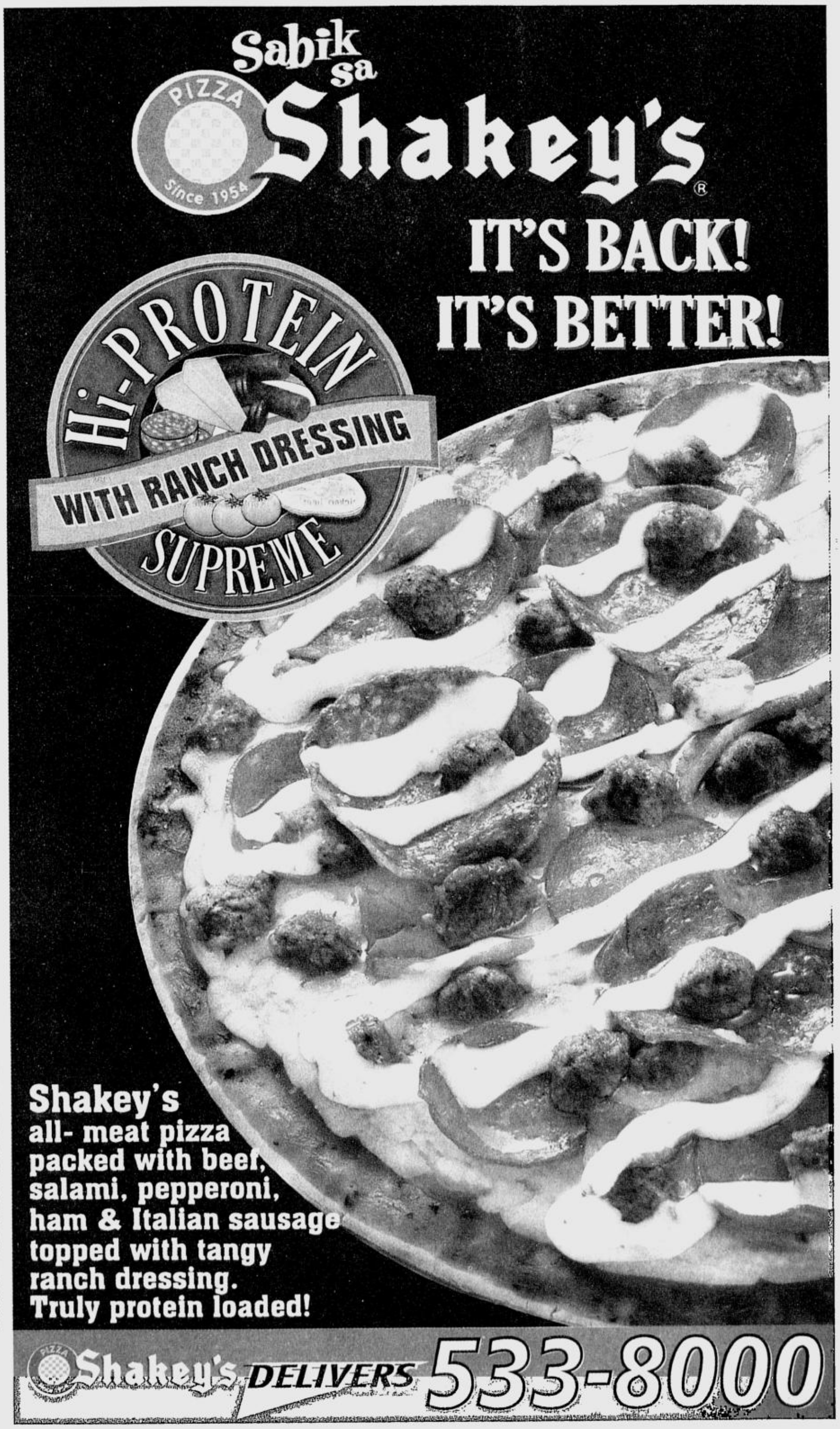
4 c water
8 thin slices fresh ginger
½ c rice wine*
2 tsp rock salt
2 pcs chicken breast
Dipping sauce #1:
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 ½ tsp vinegar
1 ¼ tsp white sugar
¼ tsp sesame oil*
Dipping sauce #2:
¼ c corn oil
½ tsp rock salt
½ tsp white sugar
2 tbsp minced ginger
2 tbsp chopped spring onions
Optional garnishing:
sprigs of coriander or cilantro

In a stockpot, bring the water to a boil together with the slices of ginger, rice wine and salt. Add the chicken and cover. Allow to boil. Simmer for 15 minutes with the cover on. Turn off the heat and leave the cover on for another 15 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a platter and chill for at least half an hour. Cut into bite-size pieces and arrange in a serving platter. Top with desired garnishing. Serve the dipping sauces separately.

To prepare dipping sauce #1, combine the ingredients in a small mixing bowl. Mix well with a spoon. To prepare dipping sauce #2, combine the ingredients with the exception of the corn oil in a mixing bowl. Set aside. Heat the corn oil in a frying pan until smoking point. Turn off the heat and quickly pour the oil over the ginger mixture. The mixture will sizzle.

*Note: rice wine, oyster sauce and sesame oil, staples in oriental cooking, are available in large supermarkets in the soy sauce section.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School and at the Julius Maggi Kitchen. Call 7217735.



STEAMED minced shrimps

Hotel's culinary academy features Chinese dishes

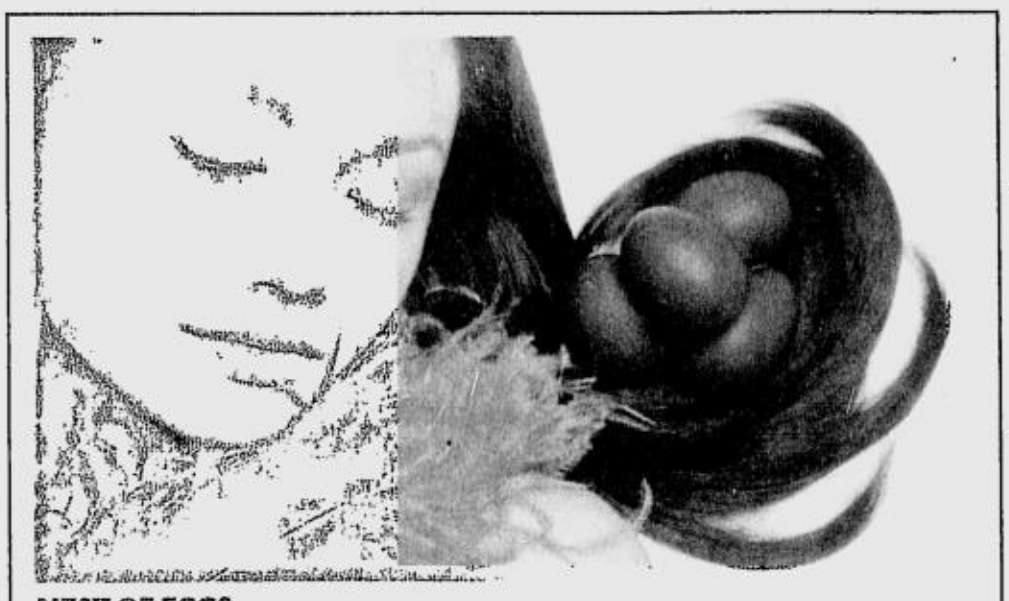
THE MAKATI Shangri-La Culinary Academy will hold its September cooking class on Sept. 13, 9 a.m., at Quezon A function room.

This month's session will focus on Chinese cuisine to be taught and prepared before the class by executive chef Tsang Siu Lun of the Shang Palace, executive chef Christopher Romine and pastry sous chef Rolando Macatangay.

Participants will learn how to prepare delicacies such as Steamed Minced Shrimps Stuffed with Bean Curd, Stewed Chicken with Black Beans, Pan-fried Egg and Crab Meat Foo Yong and Sesame Seed Balls.

The P1,350 class fee is inclusive of a recipe kit and lunch consisting of the demonstrated menu.

Call 8400884 or 8138888.


NEST OF EGGS

Salted eggs are a favorite among Filipino households. Commonly known as "itlog na maalat," they have been submerged in salted water for 30 days. Witness how versatile this egg is at the 3rd Philippine Egg Show on Sept. 19-21 at Megatrade Halls 2 and 3, SM Megamall. Called "Eat a Miracle Everyday," the egg festival sponsored by the Egg Board will feature seminars, lectures and the unveiling of the world's largest omelet. The festival will also serve as an avenue for the egg producers to come together, talk about their business and increase their knowledge about the other side of the industry. Call 7264128.

AFIC prescribes dose of caution on herbals

WHILE the Department of Health and the herbal industry are locked in controversy over *ampalaya* as an anti-diabetes supplement, the Asian Food Information Center (AFIC) issues a note of caution. The center says care should be taken when taking dietary food supplements. While there is evidence that some supplements may be beneficial, they could also have adverse, even toxic, results.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

AFIC issued the following advisory: Read product labels, follow recommended dosages, heed all warnings and consult a doctor or health professional, especially if taking any medication or undergoing treatment for a specific medical condition.

Avoid taking too many supplements at a time to avoid the risk of supplements interfering and interacting with one another.

Supplements must not be used as alternative to healthy lifestyle and diet, the basic prerequisites for a healthy life.

Supplements can protect against illnesses and aid recovery, but they cannot cure diseases.

AFIC described dietary supplements as, "Any product (other than tobacco) that contains a vitamin, mineral, herb or other botanical, or amino acid (or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, or combination thereof) and is intended as a supplement to diet."

Complaints

Edwin Teves enrolled his son at the Thames International Business School and paid the full tuition for a trimester of P46,085. One week later, however, his son had to discontinue his studies because of an emergency. For three months now, Teves has been asking the school authorities for a refund. He wrote to the school president [but] the letter was not even acknowledged, Teves said. He also complained that he had been given the run-around all these months.

"The saving grace in that school is Ms Lee Zamora, who has been courteous and responsive. It's a pity she doesn't run the school."

(We called the school and Lee Zamora, supervisor of general services, about the status of Teves' request for refund. She assured us that the school would "definitely" return the tuition fee paid by Teves, pending discussion by school officials.)

From Emy Medina (emygirl@hotmail.com): "Residents of Better Living, Merville, Moonwalk, [and] motorists who want to go to NAIA are charged P20 for passing through Multinational Village if their vehicles don't have Multinational stickers. We cannot do anything about it, more so because the security guards are armed. We are told that the village owner insists it is a private road."

Sometime ago, reader Joy dela Rosa (cavcilib@info.com.ph) complained about garment sizes in the local market. Here's a similar complaint from gracious@yahoo.com: "We shopped for ready-to-wear clothes at a big mall in Makati. To our dismay, the clothes were too small for the sizes on their tags. Even the large and extra-large sizes were still too small."

From Ray Ong (rayong88@hotmail.com): "It's always a pleasure riding the Metro Rail Transit along Edsa. It's cool and comfortable, there's even toilet facility. It's [a different story] when you take the LRT, especially when the air-conditioners in the special coaches don't work. Passengers are packed like sardines. There are no windows. You can imagine the infernal condition when the aircon doesn't work."

Readers' comments

M. Mendez (ambmendez@edsamail.com.ph) wrote: "Following the suggestion in your column about the watch repair, I wrote to the DTI-NCR. I am glad to report that, as a result of two mediations, Geneva Watch refunded my money."

Maria Barbers commented on the no-smoking law (this column, Sept. 4): "When we complained to the management of SM Megamall and Shangri-La Mall about smoking in their premises, they replied that the office of the mayor of Mandaluyong has not yet issued any municipal ordinance prohibiting smoking in establishments."

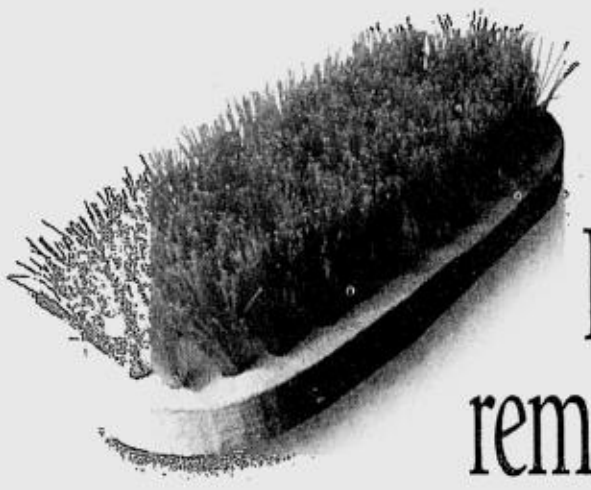
New organization

The Consumers Coalition for Truthful Information is a new organization that will focus on the "untruths, half-truths, omissions of essential facts" in the interest of consumer welfare.

According to founder Ed Aurelio C. Reyes, who teamed up recently with Mike Ocampo of a consumer organization, "We have come up with a declaration called The Quest for a Culture of Truth—to Unite Us and Set Us Free."

If you are interested in joining the coalition, write to Reyes at dingreyes@yahoo.com

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph



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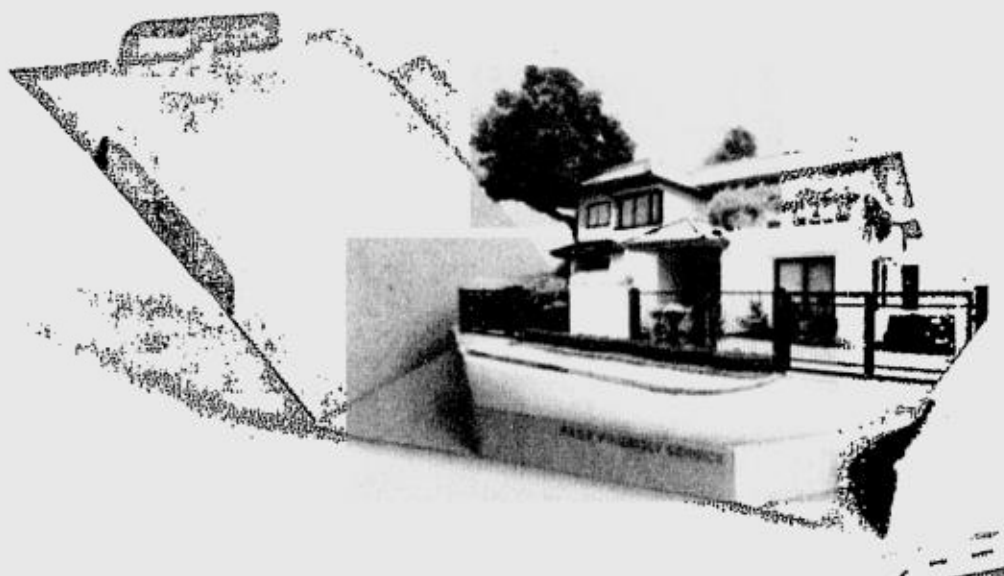
Facial care centre



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First Gentleman to join GMA in trip to US, Europe

Story Below, Col. 1

Cops eye Kuratong in airport exec's slay

By Tony Bergonia

A WEB of underworld operations and multimillion-peso financial rackets possibly involving politicians could be behind the murder of airport executive Lilia Diaz.

Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, yesterday told the INQUIRER that authorities were

COPS/ A19

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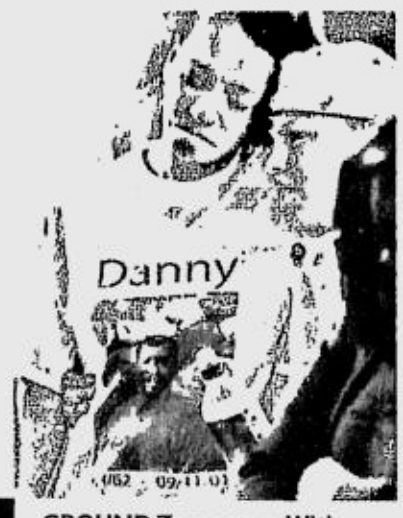


GROUND Zero scene: With memories come the tears for the endlessly remembered, the achingly missed. AFP

Osama lauds terrorists in new video

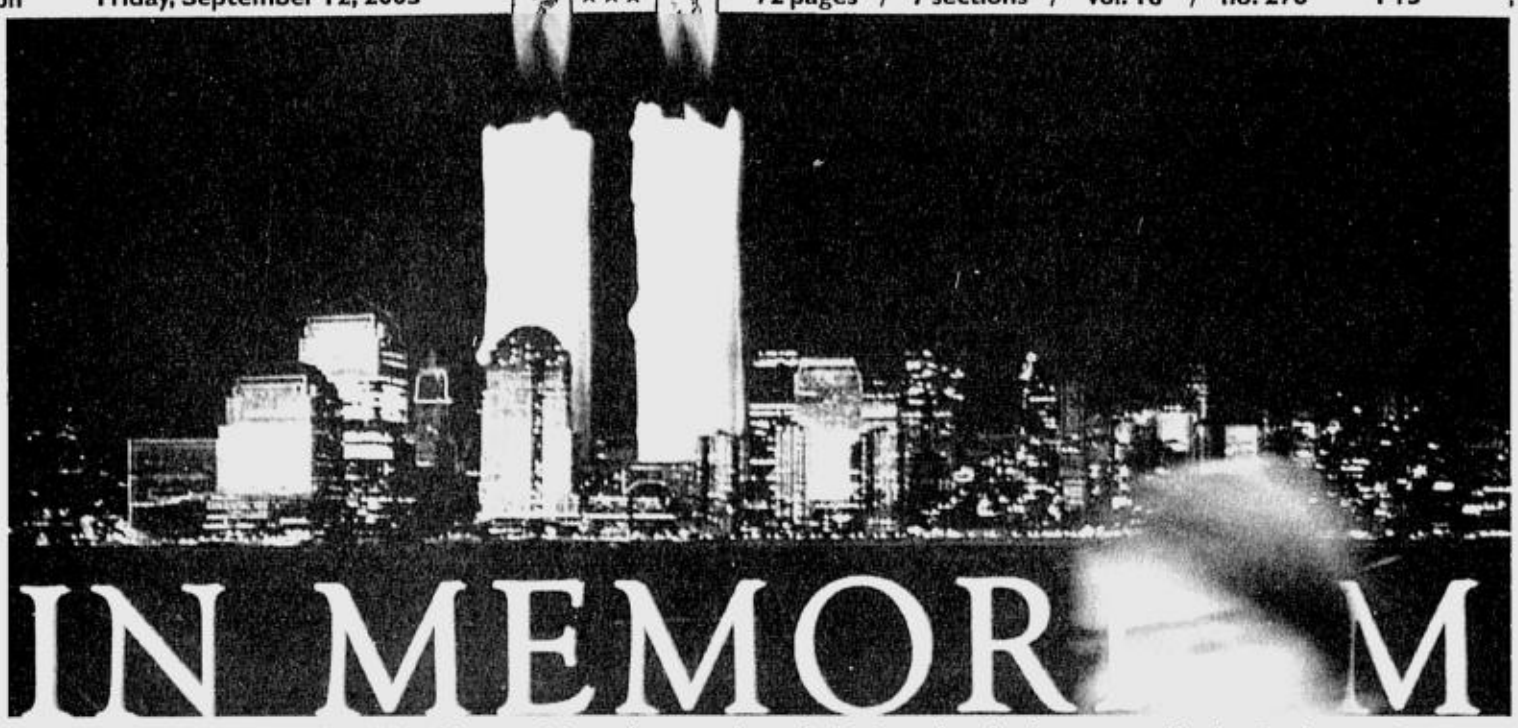
BEIRUT, Lebanon—The first video image of Osama bin Laden in nearly two years was broadcast on Al-Jazeera TV on Wednesday, the eve of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The al-Qaida leader was shown walking through rocky terrain with his top aide. Both were carrying assault rifles.

In an eight-minute audiotape accompanying the video footage, a speaker identified as Bin Laden praised the "great damage to the enemy" on Sept. 11 and mentioned five hijackers by name.

On a second tape, a voice said to be that of Bin Laden's chief

OSAMA/ A21



THE WORLD will long remember 9/11 with powerful emotions teeming and with fervor burning for peace and justice. On the second anniversary of the terrorist attack in New York and Washington, Kosovo's capital Pristina put up posters calling on the people to light candles and observe a minute of silence throughout the country. REUTERS

Children at center of remembrance

NEW YORK—Two years after the prodigious horror and grief of Sept. 11, the small voices of children were at the center of its remembrance on Thursday, charged with reading the names of loved ones killed in the attack and joining in song at Ground Zero.

Across America, the tolling of bells, the laying of wreaths and, in many places, moments with no words at all marked the second anniversary of the terrorist assault that killed more than 3,000

CHILDREN/ A21

Bush here for only 8 hrs

Oct. 18 state visit to RP viewed as a gesture of thanks to GMA

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

IT'S CONFIRMED.

US President George W. Bush will arrive here on Oct. 18 for an eight-hour visit en route to Bangkok to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople announced yesterday.

Bush's first state visit to Asia since becoming president three years ago is largely viewed as a gesture of thanks to President Macapagal-Arroyo for her unflinching support for the US-led war against terrorism.

There had been serious doubts about the US president's visit to Manila due to intense security and political concerns, including the Oakwood mutiny, the political upheaval incited by the corruption allegations against the husband of President Macapagal and an escaped terrorist bomber who's still at large.

Ople said the Bush visit would "tell the whole world that the US president values and appreciates the Philippine-American alliance in the fight against terrorism and the search for peace and development in the Philippines."

It will be an if-it's-Tuesday-this must-be-Manila type of visit. Bush arrives about noon at the former US Air Force base in Clark in Angeles, Pampanga, which was preferred by the RP-US working group preparing for the Bush visit.

"There is another possibility that he will land at Subic but the working group prefers Clark," Ople said.

He did not explain why the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila was not considered for the landing of Air Force One. But US security officials had earlier cited security risks at the Naia, particularly the slum areas around the airport premises which could be used as a launching pad for terrorist strikes.

But Ople said "the Philippines can

BUSH/ A19

THEY KILL JOURNALISTS, DON'T THEY? The message is the medium in an indignation rally (top) organized by tri-media groups who marched on Thursday through the main streets of Davao City where hard-hitting Juan Porras Pala, the city's most popular radio commentator, was killed last Saturday. (Above) For the first time, journalists in Cagayan de Oro City stood as one to rally and call attention to the unsolved murders of journalists. BING GONZALES/GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Solon's split proposal splits Lakas

By Carlito Pablo and Juliet Javellana

THE SUGGESTION by a Lakas congressman that President Macapagal-Arroyo file for legal separation from First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo threatens to split—not the First Couple—but the ruling party itself.

A member of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats yesterday dared Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo (Lakas, Valenzuela) to leave the party if the latter could not stand the heat generated by the Jose Pidal controversy.

Rep. Rodolfo Albano (Lakas, Isabela) issued the challenge after Gunigundo made his proposal ostensibly to calm an allegedly alarmed ruling party.

"Why (doesn't) he just resign from Lakas?" Albano said in a phone interview. "The party is willing to fight."

In Malacañang, the President's political li-

SOLON/ A19

'Public interest higher than privacy right'

By Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday insisted that public interest was paramount over the right to privacy.

He said he would ask the blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo to push through with the inquiry into the Jose Pidal accounts and to compel the First Gentleman's brother, Ignacio Arroyo, to tell all during the next hearing.

Pimentel was set to submit yesterday a memorandum to the committee detailing his position on the twin legal issues.

PUBLIC/ A20

Mike A to join Gloria in trip to US, Europe

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

TWO days after an administration congressman proposed that the First Couple file for legal separation, Malacañang yesterday announced that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo would join President Macapagal-Arroyo during her six-day trip to the United States and Europe later this month.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said he was hopeful that the First Gentleman's participation in the presidential trip would put to rest all speculation that the First Couple's marriage was on the rocks.

"I guess the message is clear that all's well between the two of them," Bunye said.

Only the other day, Bunye was unsure whether the First Gentleman was joining the trip, which is scheduled from Sept. 25 to 30.

Arroyo himself, in a speech before the Rotary Club of Manila yesterday, said he was filing a case against opposition Sen.

MIKE/ A19

Kris, yes; Korina, no

By Cynthia D. Balana

KRIS Aquino yesterday came out of a House hearing, to which she and her TV cohost had been summoned, smelling like a rose.

Members of the House committee on

KRIS/ A20

Vicky Toh: I feel my life is shattered

By Alcuin Valle Papa

SHE feels her life is over.

A day after First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo made an impassioned speech that he could not imagine a life without his wife, his alleged mistress Vicky Toh said her life has been shattered by the exposés of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"I feel my life is over. I am a very private person and now the whole world has labeled me a mistress and a dummy (of Arroyo's corporations)," said an emotional Toh in a phone patch with reporters at her lawyer's office in Makati.

Toh, however, said she was fighting back.

"That (mistress and dummy) is not who I am, and I will defend my honor. In an effort to clear my name, I have advised my lawyer to file a case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Senate ethics

VICKY/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds blowing from the southwest will prevail throughout the archipelago and the coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/12/03

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

MARCOS MILLIONS

Judge revives settlement deal

By Dona Pazzibugan

A UNITED States judge has revived the $150 million compromise deal entered into by the heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and a group of human rights abuse victims during the Estrada administration.

Judge Manuel Real of the Hawaii district court, in an order dated Sept. 2, said the settlement which he approved on April 29, 1999 should now take effect. "The Court hereby determines it shall reinstate the compromise judgment and settlement dated April 29, 1999.

"In this way, the Court gives effect to a settlement once agreed upon, only to be reneged by the (Philippine government)," said Real in his seven-page memorandum and order.

The memorandum was part of Real's Sept. 2 order blocking the transfer of the $683 million ill-gotten Marcos Swiss deposits to the Philippine government.

Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of Selda which represents most of the 9,539 martial law victims who won a $2-billion award from Real's court in 1995, furnished the INQUIRER with a copy of Real's memorandum yesterday.

Enriquez said it was "unfortunate that Real would allow himself to be an instrument of collusion between the Marcoses and [the victims' lawyer Robert] Swift."

In 1998 the Marcoses and Swift, representing the victims, entered into a compromise deal under which the human rights claimants would get $150 million from the disputed Marcos Swiss deposits.

The Marcos heirs in turn would be allowed to keep the rest of the money and Ferdinand Marcos would be absolved of the crimes he is accused of having committed during his dictatorial regime.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, tasked with the recovery of the Marcos ill-gotten assets which was then chaired by Magdangal Elma, approved the deal.

The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court nullified the deal in 2000 for being illegal.

Enriquez, who along with other victims flew to Hawaii to register their protest, said the terms of the deal robbed the victims of justice.

In his memorandum, Real said that if the Swiss monies go to the government, there would be nothing left for the claimants.

But Real did not mention efforts by Congress to hammer out a law to allocate about $200 million of the Marcos loot to the martial law victims.

Real blocked the transfer of the $683 million Swiss deposits, saying that the Philippine Supreme Court violated due process when it forfeited the money in favor of the Philippine government in a ruling handed down on July 15.

Malacañang and several lawmakers condemned Real's ruling for infringing on the Philippine judicial system.

Joker blocks legal treaty with HK

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Joker Arroyo on Wednesday night blocked the ratification of a treaty binding the Philippines and Hong Kong to mutual cooperation in all legal and criminal matters.

Opposition senators have supported the accord, which legally allows the country to look into a bank account with Coutts Bank in Hong Kong, where a $2-million bribe allegedly given to former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was deposited.

The treaty was formally sponsored on the Senate floor on Sept. 3, and was set to be passed on second reading the other night.

But before administration Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. could move to have the agreement ratified, Arroyo pointed out its infirmities.

"Why should we have a treaty with a non-sovereign state?" he asked. This floored several members of the chamber.

Arroyo insisted that treaties were predicated on reciprocity, equality and parity. On these grounds, he said, the People's Republic of China should have signed the accord.

Drilon said the Senate, through Resolution No. 29, on April 23, 2002 ratified the agreement between the country and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China for the transfer of sentence of prisons.

Then, Arroyo countered, it was time to rectify a wrong.

"The content (of the treaty) is all right," he said, but the issue was whether Hong Kong had the legal personality to execute such an accord.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. pointed out that New Zealand, Canada, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and the United States—all sovereign states—had inked similar agreements with the Hong Kong SAR.

Said Pimentel: "Article 30 of the Basic Law of Hong Kong SAR stipulates that the central people's government is responsible for foreign affairs related to Hong Kong, but it authorizes the latter to conduct relevant external affairs in accordance with the Basic Law."

Sensing that the debate was going nowhere, Villar conferred with Drilon and agreed to indefinitely suspend consideration of the resolution.

SC asked to void RP-US accord

EVEN as the world marked the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday asked the Supreme Court to nullify an agreement between the Philippines and the US which would give US citizens here immunity from prosecution in the International Criminal Court.

Ocampo said the agreement violated the country's sovereignty as it would prevent the government from bringing US nationals wanted for crimes against humanity before the ICC.

He said the treaty was not a simple executive agreement as officials have claimed. "It has grave implications on our sovereign nation. What course do Filipinos have when they become victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression by US troops?" Ocampo asked. *Philip C. Tubeza*

BSP execs beat rap

CENTRAL bank governor Rafael Buenaventura and 20 other officials scored a minor victory after the Supreme Court denied a petition from lawyer Benjamin Tabios Jr. asking the Ombudsman to charge the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials criminally for closing down Urban Bank.

Only the other day, former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan filed a similar petition with the high court, asking the SC to reverse an Ombudsman ruling dismissing charges of falsification that he had filed against the BSP officials over the bank closure.

The Supreme Court decision, however, did not address another pending issue: the one-year suspension handed down by the Court of Appeals last month against Buenaventura, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes and three other senior officials.

Buenaventura and the four senior officials have asked the appellate court to reconsider the decision.

Investors have blamed the suspension of the monetary officials as one of the biggest factors dragging down the peso.

In a press statement, the central bank said the criminal charges filed by Tabios, a former executive assistant for Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, had been dismissed by the Ombudsman for lack of "clear and sufficient basis."

It was elevated to the Court of Appeals which similarly dismissed the case. Tabios then went to the Supreme Court and petitioned the high court to review the decision.

Tabios filed a case against the entire BSP supervision and examination department from Reyes down to the lowest ranking examiner for alleged falsification of documents and perjury. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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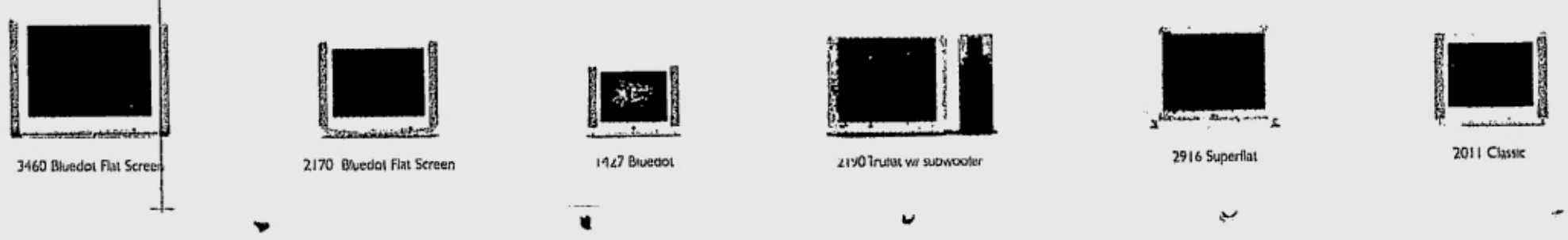

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. How many players are there in a badminton doubles match?
   a. 2
   b. 3
   c. 4
   d. 6
2. How many years has it been since the Sept. 11 bombing of the World Trade Center?
   a. 1
   b. 3
   c. 4
   d. 2
3. He is the author of *Florante at Laura.*
   a. Francisco Balagtas
   b. William Shakespeare
   c. Jose Rizal
   d. Nick Joaquin
4. Who is the alleged mistress of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo?
   a. Victoria Ngo
   b. Victoria Toh
   c. Victoria Ong
   d. Victoria So
5. Brad Pitt recently dubbed the voice of which animated character?
   a. Nemo
   b. Aladdin
   c. Sinbad
   d. None of the above

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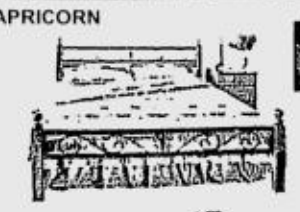

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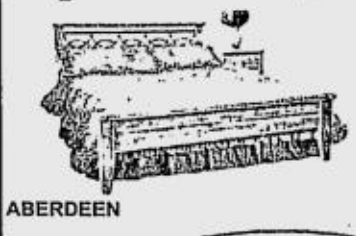

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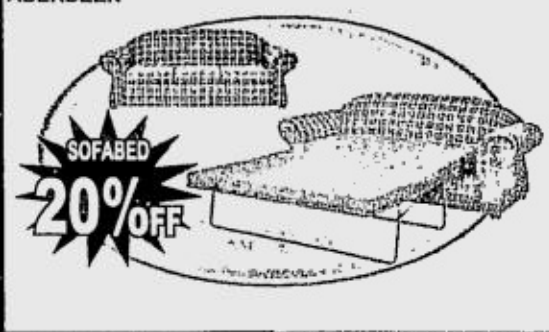

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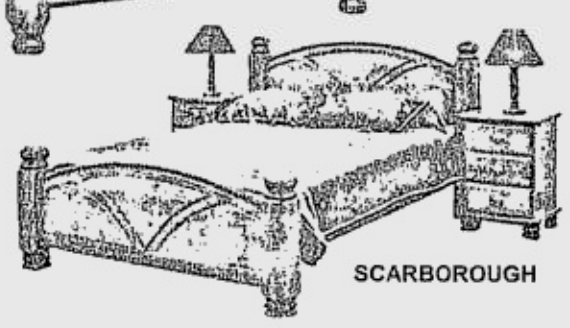

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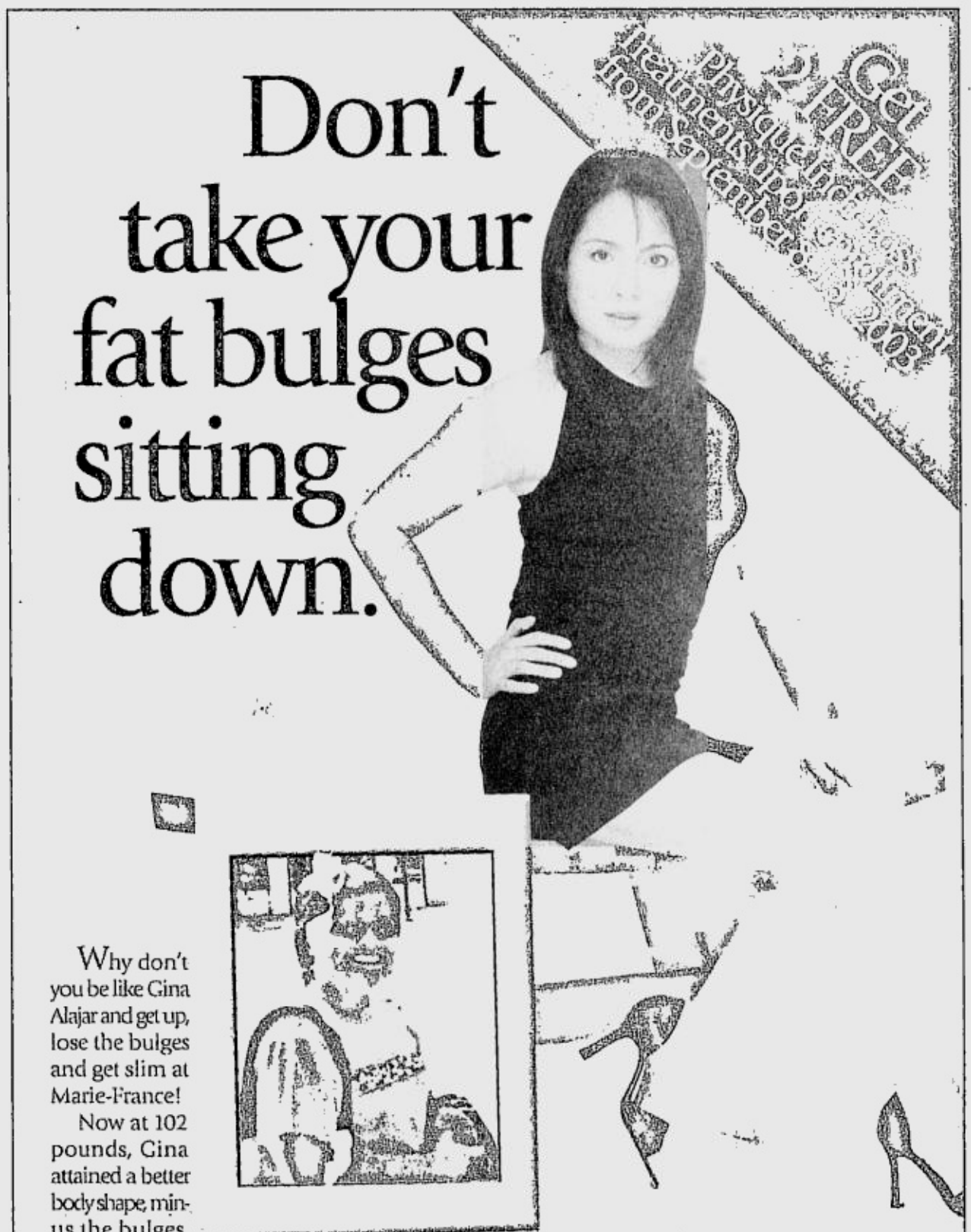

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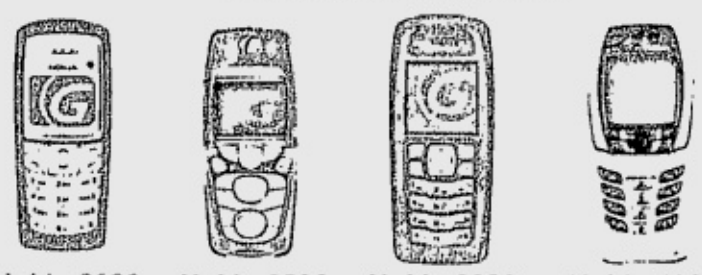

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It doesn't pay to be frugal

By Cynthia D. Balana

IT DOES not always pay to be frugal with public funds.

A member of the House committee on appropriations has moved to slash the proposed P2.62-billion budget of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for 2004.

This was after the committee learned that the DOST failed to use some P150 million in its 2002 allocation.

During the committee hearing on the proposed budget, Rep. Fred Castro (Capiz) said the P2.62 billion should be reduced if DOST fails to fully account for its previous allotment soon.

The P150 million was reportedly intended for programs of the Office of the Secretary and certain attached agencies, including the Forest Products and Research Institute (FPRI), Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI), and Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

Carol Yubero, DOST assistant secretary for finance, explained that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) did not issue the special allotment release order for the said allocation last year, hence the fund could not be used this year.

In such cases, said Rep. Rolando Andaya of Camarines Sur, committee chair, the figures should have been reflected in the National Expenditure Program (NEP). But no such entry had been made, Andaya stressed.

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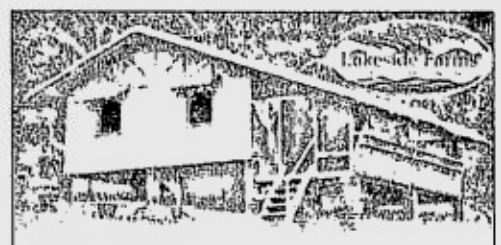

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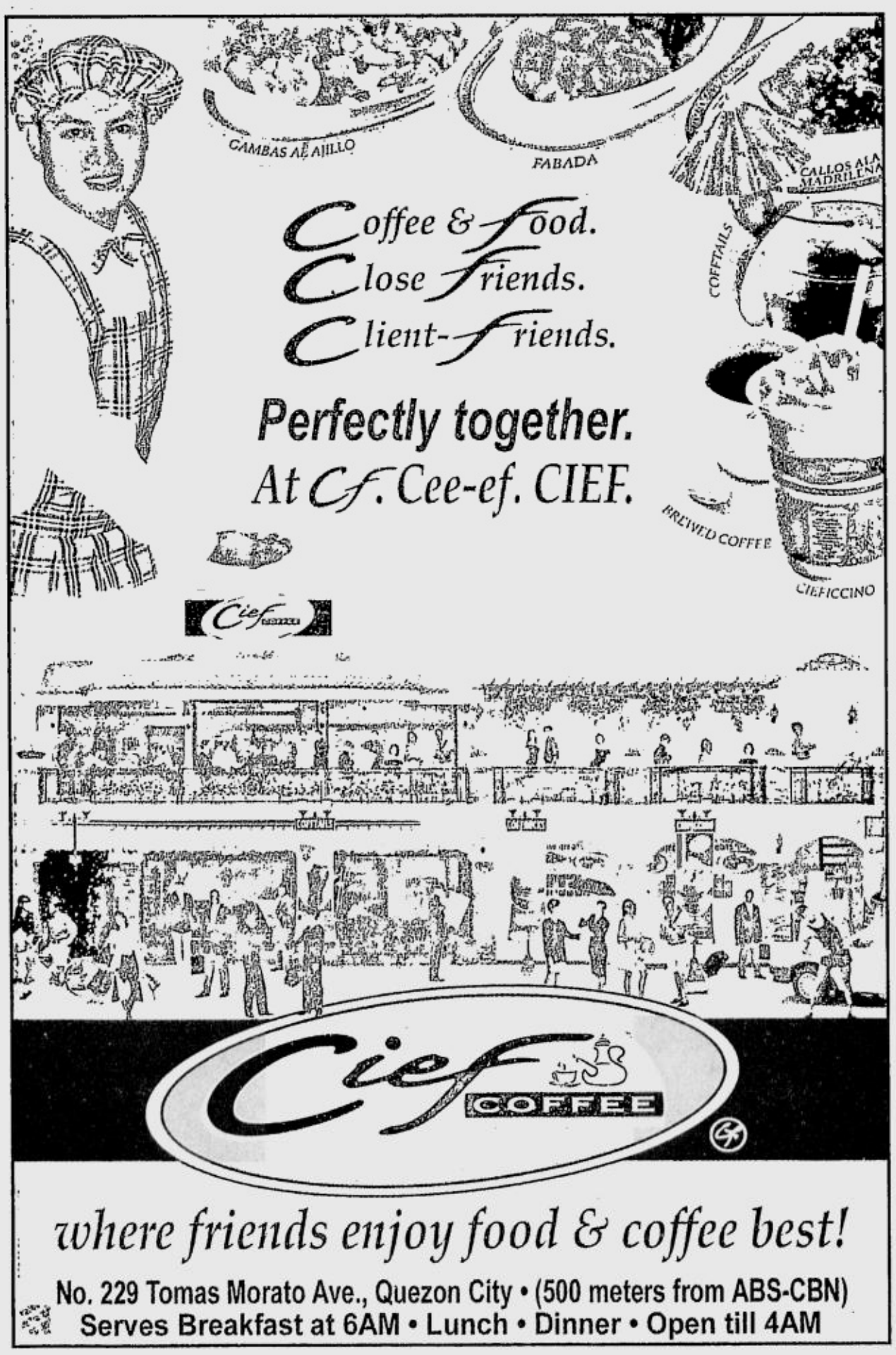

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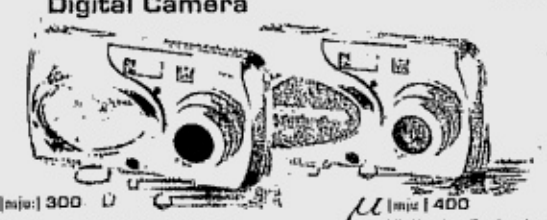

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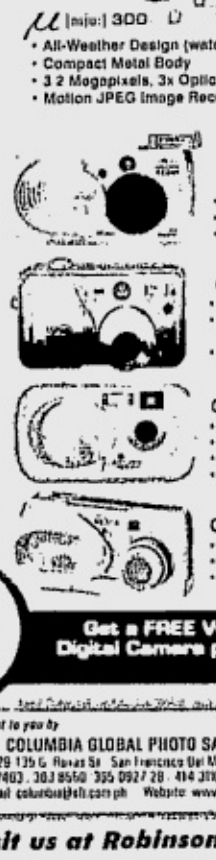

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GMA reaches out, thanks loyal commanders

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday hosted lunch at Camp Aguinaldo for more than 100 military company commanders, thanking them for their continued loyalty to the chain of command.

The President, who is temporarily acting as her own defense secretary, feted the 151 company commanders from the Army, Navy and Air Force at the start of a two-day refresher seminar on the military grievance mechanism.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Narciso Abaya said Ms Macapagal encouraged the officers "to be very candid" about their problems and solutions during the seminar "so we will not have these incidents where grievances cannot be aired."

The President has also been hosting a series of dinners for several classes from the Philippine Military Academy in the wake of the July 27 failed coup.

Some officials have blamed the failure of the military "grievance mechanism," among others, for the failed coup.

Abaya said he called the commanders to a seminar to discuss "all sorts of things," including "the problems they are encountering, ways to improve them, how much they are getting in terms of operational support and how much they're spending."

"We believe that our present grievance mechanism through the chain of command should work and the company commanders are the first level where a soldier can bring his grievance," he told reporters.

"We are proud that President Macapagal-Arroyo is reaching out. By doing so, she is enhancing the grievance mechanism. If you were on the field, and you have a problem, sometimes it takes time before you get heard because of the bureaucratic red tape," said Capt. Reuben Guinolbay, the 11th Scout Ranger Company commander.

The commanders did not raise any issue with the President.

According to Abaya, in the course of the seminar, they would be asked to fill out a questionnaire and indicate their topics of preference for the next day.

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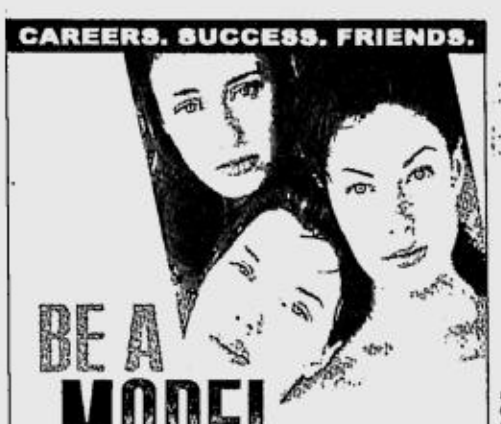
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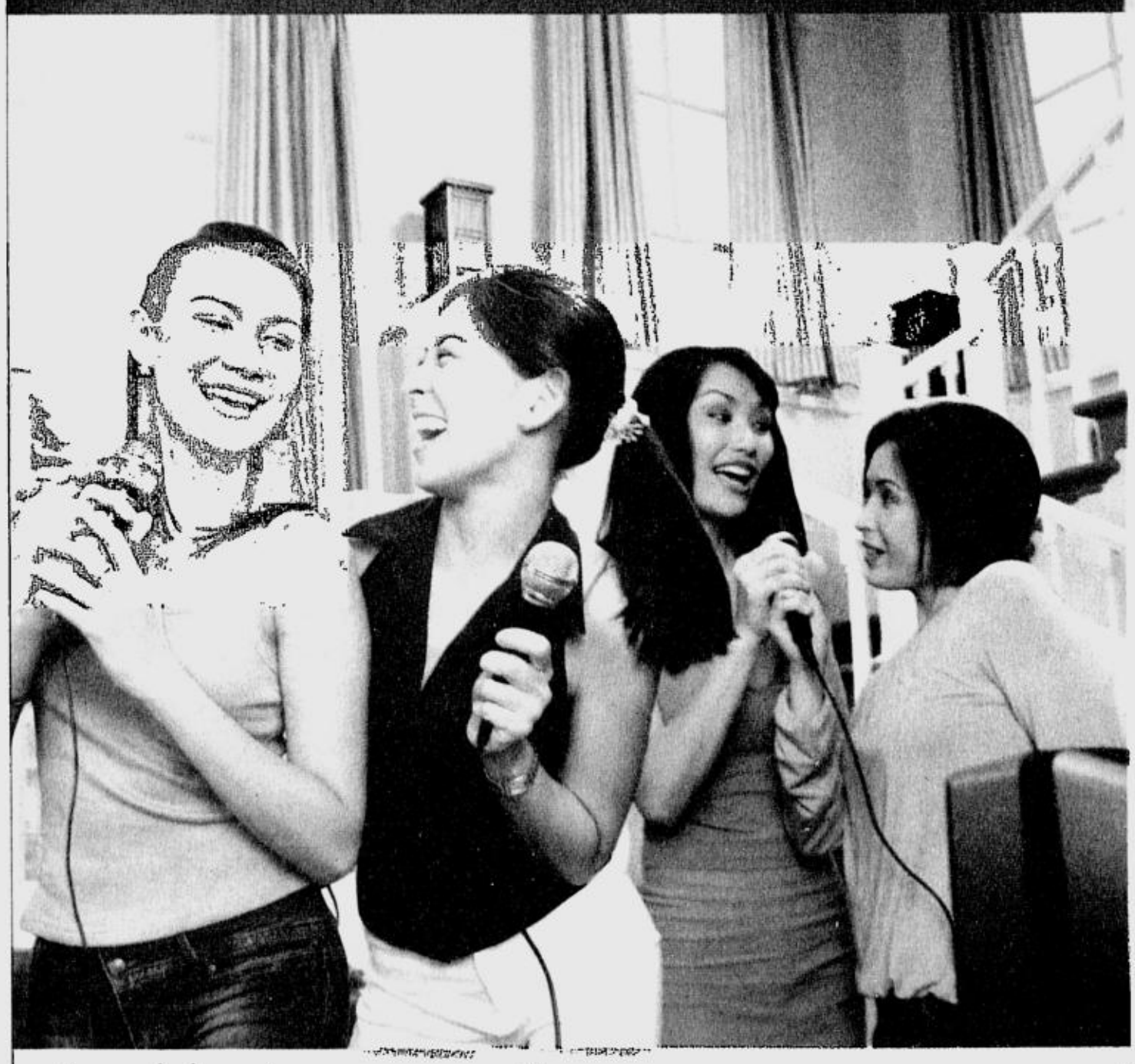

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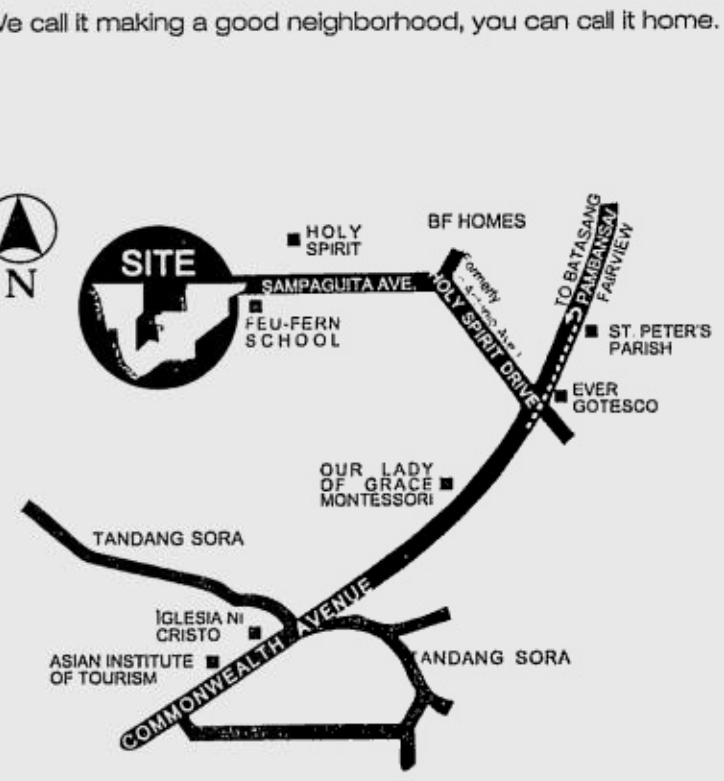

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PNP experts stand by signature findings

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE experts have finally broken their silence in the face of fierce criticism over their findings on the controversial Jose Pidal signatures.

Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, head of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, yesterday dared his critics to dispute his office's findings in court and not "use media to discredit" his subordinates.

"We are an impartial investigative office," he told reporters. "Our findings are based on internationally accepted and proven scientific methods and processes of handwriting analysis."

To prove this, he asked two of his people to show the media the "modern" equipment the crime lab used in comparing the Jose Pidal signatures with the specimens submitted by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his younger brother Ignacio.

Dr. Rosario Perez, the PNP's technical reviewer the last 20 years, said she and several other document experts used a video spectral comparator and a stereoscopic microscope for the examination. The equipment, she said, basically enlarged the specimens to enable experts to determine differences and similarities.

Dr. Mely Sorra, chief of the Questioned Documents Division, had earlier bragged that the PNP findings had a "zero margin of error." But her subordinates yesterday appeared unsure if they could back their boss' bold pronouncement.

Because the PNP used reproductions of the Jose Pidal signatures for the test, Perez admitted that the method might have missed some details.

Describing Segundo Tabayoyong as a "biased witness and a paid private practitioner," Mosqueda said the ex-National Bureau of Investigation examiner thus had no business challenging the PNP results.

Tabayonong on Wednesday said that the PNP had committed a fundamental error by interpreting the "M" in the Mike Arroyo signature as the letters "o-s-e" in the Jose Pidal samples.

Mosqueda also scolded Ike Seneres, former chief of the National Computer Center and the National Crime Information System. "Seneres is not a questioned document examiner or graphologist and has no authority to dispute the findings of the crime lab," he said.

Besides noting the "critical error in methodology" in the PNP test, Seneres also criticized police experts for using "outdated" equipment.

Mosqueda claimed that the proposed technology, the Optical Character Recognition, was "not yet accepted by any forensic investigator because it has not yet passed the test and evaluation of the courts."

Work permits for F4 concert

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday paved the way for the much awaited concert of Taiwanese actress Barbie Xu and two members of the F4 by issuing the visiting artists their special work permits.

In addition, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo also gave work permits for the Meteor Garden cast and 12 other members of their entourage which included artists and directors from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States and Malaysia.

Among those given permits were Hsu Shi Ti and F4 members Vanness Wu and Ken Zhu, mainstays of the Meteor Garden series.

Domingo issued the permits after organizers of the concert complied with all requirements like payment of immigration fees worth P81,150, submission of their itinerary and affidavits of support and guaranty.

Under existing BI regulations, Xu and her companions are prohibited from staging other shows aside from their Sept. 13 concert unless they apply for another work permit.

Martin Marfil

Red Cross gets P5M from PCSO

ROSA Rosal, Philippine National Red Cross governor and chair of the National Blood Services committee, has received a P5-million donation from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for the blood program.

Rosal said the donation will be used by the PNRC for its blood program. "The PNRC is truly the lead player in the effort to provide ample and continuing supply of safe blood in the country," Ms Rosal said.

The blood program, which promotes voluntary blood donation, is also responsible for efficient management of blood processing facilities nationwide.

The PCSO, Rosal said, has continually supported the Red Cross in its effort to serve the vulnerable people. The PCSO donates P1 million monthly to the PNRC as its contribution to the effective and efficient delivery of its services particularly the Blood Program.

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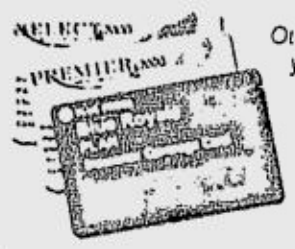

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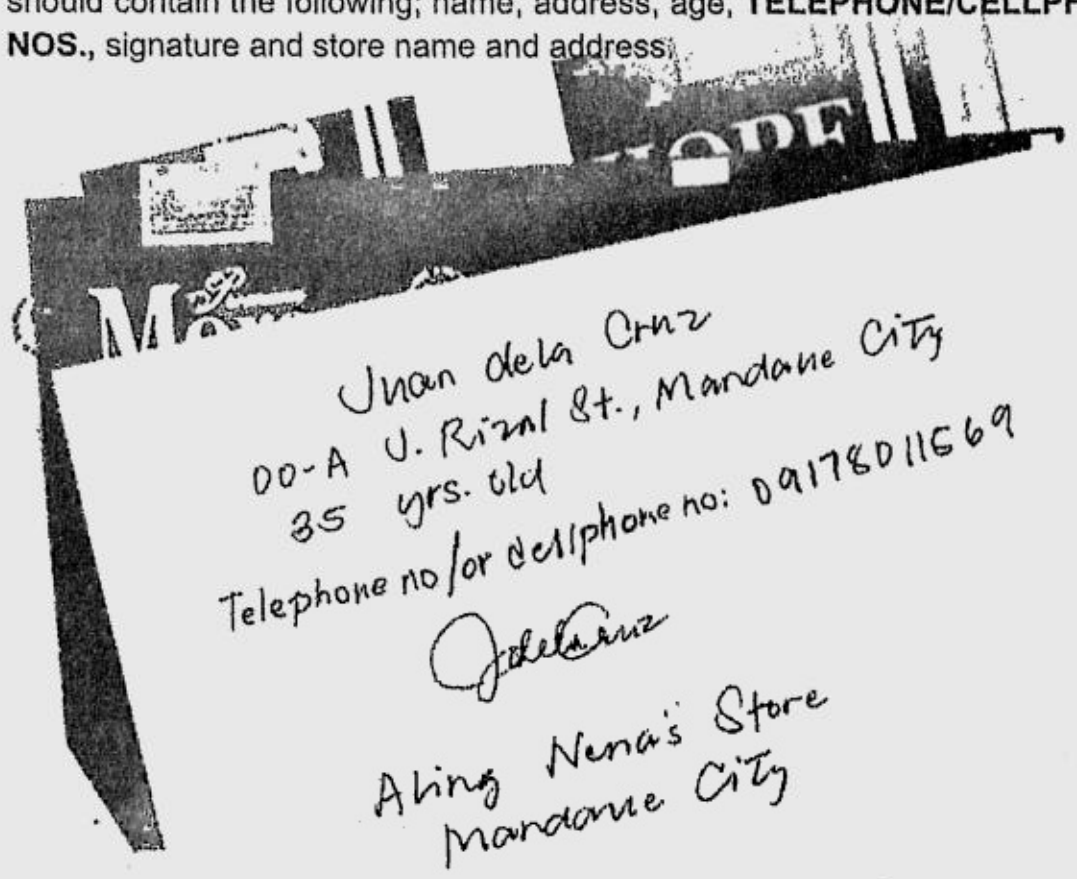

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World remembers Sept. 11

TOKYO—Some planted trees to remember fallen compatriots. Others laid wreaths. Some simply mourned quietly as the strains of trumpets echoed over memorial services.

Across the world, people and governments marked the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with prayers, promises to continue fighting terrorism—and reflections on the changes that the 2001 attacks have wrought internationally.

At the US Embassy in the Philippines, US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli laid a wreath at the base of the mission's flagpole, where the US flag was at half staff, while a trumpeter played. In Baghdad, the US administrator for Iraq and the commander of American forces in the country joined about 100 civilians and soldiers for a moment of silence Thursday at Saddam Hussein's former Republican Palace.

L. Paul Bremer and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez stood with the others to bow their heads as a Scottish bagpiper played "Amazing Grace."

"Let us attune our hearts to the voices crying out from the Sept. 11, 2001, compelling us to eradicate terrorism in our world and restore justice and dignity to creation," said US Army chaplain Col. Frank Wismer.

In Australia, hundreds of Americans and volunteers planted some 3,000 trees at a park in Sydney in remembrance of the victims, including at least 10 Australians. Antony Milne, the former manager of the World Trade Center's Windows on the World restaurant, planted 80 saplings in memory of his fallen colleagues.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard summed up what many around the world have come to realize since that terrible day—no one is beyond the reach of terror.

"This war against terrorism is likely to go on for years and nobody can regard themselves as beyond the reach of terrorism," Howard told Sky News Television. "We need to find ways of further cooperation, particularly at a police and intelligence level."

Howard spoke a day after an Indonesian court sentenced the mastermind of last October's Bali bombings to face a firing squad.

Bali's nightclub blasts killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, and was the bloodiest terrorist strike since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington launched by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Authorities have blamed the Bali bombings on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group.

In China's Muslim northwest, the regional Communist Party secretary seized the occasion of the Sept. 11 anniversary to call attention to separatist forces at home.

"We have found some training camps in Xinjiang after the Sept. 11 incident, but not many," he said, adding that they were being aided by international terrorists, including at "several training camps in Pakistan."

The most chilling reminder of the attacks came on the eve of the anniversary. On Wednesday, Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera aired video and audio tapes of Bin Laden and his deputy. In the 8-minute audiotape, a voice said to be that of Bin Laden praised the attacks on the United States for causing "great damage to the enemy" and mentioned five of the hijackers by name.

Despite the possibility that Bin Laden was still at-large, residents on the streets of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, reveled in the changes since the US ousted the Taliban regime. *AP*

Protest suicide, clashes mark WTO conference

CANCUN, Mexico—The protest suicide of a South Korean man and clashes between demonstrators and police in Cancun overshadowed the first day of a World Trade Organization conference in the Mexican resort Wednesday.

"We all regret this sad incident," WTO Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi said after Lee Kyang Hae, 55, stabbed himself during a protest.

"This self-inflicted wound has resulted in his death, so we do regret it," he said.

A fellow militant said that Lee's act was meant to "demonstrate opposition to the WTO, which is killing our farmers and destroying Korea's agriculture."

Lee, who headed South Korea's Federation of Farmers and Fishermen, stabbed himself on the sidelines of a protest by several thousand people, which ended in clashes between police and a few hundred demonstrators that left several people injured.

Barriers and a massive security deployment kept demonstrators more than 10 km away from the convention center where ministers from the 146-member WTO were seeking to relaunch a free trade agenda.

Earlier in the day, about 30 people inside the conference hall chanted anti-WTO slogans as Supachai delivered his opening address.

"We will only achieve the objectives of trade and development if there are benefits for all," Supachai told the meeting. *AFP*

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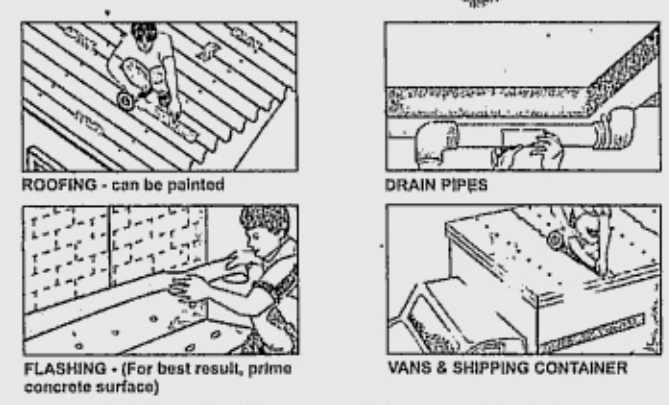

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Sweden foreign minister dies in stabbing attack

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

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BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 10:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 39XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to near Golden City Subd. including Arconica Subd. Resort, Villa Remedios, Southfield Subd., Salitran I, Dara Subd. and Philta Industries in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Golden City Road to near Goldfane Subd. including Metro Dialysis Center and Metrobank in Imus.

Along Salitran Road including Sunnycrest Village, Summerwind Village, Summer Meadow Subd., South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4, Andreaville Executive Homes, Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Molino Road from Salitran Road to near Queen's Row Road including San Miguel I, Georgetown Heights Subd., St. Mary Homes, Springville West, Molino 3, Annaville Subd. and Progressive Village 5 in Bacoor.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Transco-Dasmariñas substation.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

MANILA (TONDO)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TUTUBAN 45VT

The whole of Tutuban Centermall I and II.

REASON: Preventive maintenance work inside Meralco-Tutuban substation.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 2:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 49YJ

Portion of Batasan-San Mateo Road from Batasan Road to San Mateo Bridge including Don Mariano Homes, Presidential, Senatorial, Sinagtala Sts., Sunnyside Heights Subd., Nelson Villa Subd., Sitio Talanay, Northview Subd. I and II and Serra Monte Villas in Bgy. Batasan Hills.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Batasan-San Mateo Road.

BULACAN (NORZAGARAY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NPC-ANGAT 42AG-SAN JOSE 41SJ

Republic Aggregates Compound in Bgy. Hulo.

REASON: Maintenance work in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 10:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 37XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to Congressional Road.

Along Congressional Road from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to DBB Highway including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village.

Along DBB Highway including Burol I and II, Area H, Sta. Fe, Fatima I, Umakap Ka Cpd., Cluster A, Fatima 3, Area E, San Antonio de Padua, Cluster N, Sta. Maria, San Francisco, Cluster B, Cithomes, Bo. San Mateo, Cluster D, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Area C, Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Transco-Dasmariñas substation.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2003

LAGUNA (CABUYAO)

BETWEEN 10:30PM AND 11:00PM (MON, 09/15/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE, 09/16/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CANLUBANG 62XE-BALIBAGO 65XV

Asia Brewery Compound in Bo. Sala.

REASON: Reconstruction of 115KV lines near Asia Brewery Compound in Bo. Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna.

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON, 09/15/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE, 09/16/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAMAGONG 49VK

Portion of Pablo Ocampo Sr. St. (Vito Cruz) from near Zapote St. to near Don Pedro St. including Onyx, Guam, Primo de Rivera, Cabanillas Sts., Kingswood Condominium, Globe Telecom, Metropolitan Terraces, Genuino Ice Plant, Makati Image Print, Rustan's Supercenters, P. J. Lhuillier and Videofilm Production Center in Bgys. La Paz and Sta. Cruz.

Portion of Chino Roces Ave. (Pasong Tamo) from Pablo Ocampo St. to near Antonio Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) including JAKA Center, BCD Pinpoint Direct Marketing, Copyer Enterprises and Pinoy Center Condominium in Bgys. La Paz and Kayamanan "A".

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON, 09/15/03) AND 5:30AM (TUE, 09/16/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAMAGONG 49VK

Along Zapote St. from Pablo Ocampo Sr. St. (Vito Cruz) to Yague St. including Davila St., Equitable Card Network, Comfoods, Alliance Media Printing and Philippine Daily Inquirer in Bgy. Sta. Cruz.

REASON: Restoration of overhead static wire along Zapote St. in Bgy. Sta. Cruz, Makati City.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

QUEZON CITY (MANRESA AND DAMAR)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LA LOMA 48VB

Portion of Sgt. E. Rivera Ave. from near A. Bonifacio Ave. in Bgy. Pag-ibig Sa Nayon to and including Sto. Domingo St., Hen. Gregorio Roxas, Biak Na Bato, Pagatpan, Panalinturan, Mauban, Makatunog, Binmaka and Sta. Rosa Sts. in Bgy. Manresa, Damar Village in Bgy. Damar.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT LA LOMA 18VB, AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT LA LOMA 48VB

Portion of Banaue Ave. from near Sgt. E. Rivera St. to Del Monte Ave. in Bgy. Manresa.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Banaue St. in Bgy. Manresa, Q.C.

QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAYBIGA 423YX

Portion of Atlas Road and Northwind Ave. from near P. Dela Cruz St. to and including Northwind Village and Asia Textile Mills in Bgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches.

REASON: Relocation of pole and various maintenance work along Atlas road in Bgy. San Bartolome, Novaliches, Q.C.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2003

SAN JUAN (METRO MANILA)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE, 09/16/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 7:30AM AND 8:30AM (WED, 09/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CUBAO 45VQ

Greenhills Shopping Center including PCIBank Arcade, Unimart, Gift Gate, Greenhills Theatre and Music Museum.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE, 09/16/03) AND 8:00AM (WED, 09/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CUBAO 45VQ

Manila Bank Arcade, Far East Bank, Mister Donut and Coronado Lanes

REASON: Extension of 34.5 kV underground facilities to serve Greenhills Shopping Mall in San Juan.

PASIG CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE, 09/16/03) AND 6:30AM (WED, 09/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT HILLCREST 416VZ

Area bounded by Pasig Blvd., Pioneer, United and Fairlane Sts. including San Rafael, San Martin, Brixton, Sta. Monica, Sta. Lucia, San Francisco, Sta. Clara, San Isidro, San Vicente, Sta. Elvira, Sta. Maria, Sta. Catalina, Sta. Teresita, San Ignacio, San Jose, San Juan, San Mateo Sts., West Capitol and East Capitol Drives, Capitol Subd., Wrigley's, Foremost Farms, Continental Manufacturing, Philusa Ethical Products, Astec, KFC, Rose Industries, Banner Plasticard, Storck Products, Philkong Knitting Factory, Honeybread Bakeshop and Jollibee in Bgy. Kapitolyo.

REASON: Retirement of facilities and lowering of 20 kV lines to give clearance to 115KV lines along United St. and East Capitol Capitol Drive in Bgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

QUEZON CITY (COMMONWEALTH)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 45VU

Along Capitol Park Road from Don Mariano Marcos Ave. to and including Capitol Homes Subd., Don Antonio Royale Estates, Tivoli Greens, Vista Real Subd. and Capitol Park Homes Subd. in Bgy. Old Balara.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 45VU

Portion of Don Mariano Marcos Ave. from near Capitol Park Road in Bgy. Old Balara to near Katuparan St. in Sitio Gao including Sandigan Bayan, COA, Ever-Commonwealth, McDonald's, Capitol Estate Subd. I & II and St. Peter Parish in Bgy. Old Balara.

Portion of Batasan Road and Filinvest Homes-1 Road from Don Mariano Marcos Ave. to near Kalayaan St. including Luzviminda Village, Ciudad Regina, Doña Pilar Cpd. and Filinvest Homes 1 in Bgy. Batasan Hills.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH road widening project along Don Mariano Marcos Ave. in Sitio Gao, Q.C.

QUEZON CITY (PROJECT 7)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 1:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 403E

Portion Anahaw St. from near Bansalangin to and including Payna and Alibangbang Sts. in Veterans Village, Project 7.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Anahaw and Bansalangin Sts. in Veterans Village.

BULACAN (ANGAT AND PANDI)

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 1:30PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

The whole town of Pandi.

Along Encanto Road from Meralco-Angat substation to Siling Matanda Road in Angat.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Encanto Road in Angat and Siling Matanda Road in Pandi, Bulacan.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2003

BULACAN (BOCAUE)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT BALAGTAS 13YA

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Balagtas substation to and including Bo. Bunlo, Bgys. Antipona and Bitang, Sandico, Gomez, Burgos, Zamora, A. Bonifacio, J. P. Rizal, Mabini, A. Luna and Bambang Sts., Bos. Igulot, Wakas, Sulucan and Bambang in Bocaue.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco-Balagtas substation.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 49YJ

Portion of Regalado Ave. from Don Mariano Marcos Ave. to Tangfaw Homesite including Datsun, Dodge, Mustang, Malibu, Impala, Fairlane, Austin, Falcon, Fiat, Opel, Jaguar, Ferrari, Omega, Rado, Rolex, Titus, Timex, Lyric, Elgin, Bulova, portion of Carmel, Pontiac, Coronet Sts., Good Shepherd Parish Church V, FCL Mansions and Bayantel Cpd. in Bgy. West Fairview.

Along Dahlia Ave. from Regalado Ave. to BIR Employees Housing including Dahlia Commercial Complex, Fairview Park Homes, Villa Onon Subd., Lotus, Lilac, Narcissus, Orchid, Tulip, Roses, Verbena, Iris, Daisy, Daffodils, Carnation, Aster, Pitimini, Chestnut, Walnut, Pine, Cedar, Elm, Redwood, Maple Sts., Victorian Heights Subd., Greenview Executive Subd. and Merryhomes Subd. in Bgy. West Fairview.

REASON: Reconductoring worksalong Regalado Ave. in preparation for the expansion of Kaybiga substation feeder.

BATANGAS (STO. TOMAS)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT FPIP 413WW

Along San Rafael Estate access road from near Maharlika Hi-way to and including San Rafael Estate and San Antonio Heights in Bgy. San Antonio.

REASON: Various line repair and maintenance works along San Rafael Estate access road in Bgy. San Antonio, Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2003

MANILA (TONDO)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (THU, 09/18/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:30AM (FRI, 09/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TONDO 41VM-NORTH PORT 406H

Portion of Juan Luna from Tayuman to J. Planas St. including portion of C-2 Road, Tayuman, Arquoros and Laguna Ext. in Gagalangin, Tondo.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU, 09/18/03) AND 7:30AM (FRI, 09/19/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TONDO 41VM-NORTHPORT 406H, AND TONDO 43VM

Portion of Marlones from Dagupan to near Radial Road 10 including portion of Ricafort, Juan Luna, Pavia, Reyes, Elena, J. Nolasco, Sta. Maria, Concha, Sto. Cristo Ext., Asuncion Ext., Camba Ext., Hernandez, Madrid Ext., Barcelona Ext., Sevilla Ext., Abad Santos, Masinop, C.P. Garcia, Kasipagan, Kagitingan, Tuazon, Mithi, Lualhati, Tagumpay, Sandico Sts. and Mary Johnston Hospital.

Portion of Dagupan from Marlones to Tayuman including portion of Endaya, G. Perfecto and Prudencio Sts. in Tondo.

REASON: Commissioning of circuit Tutuban 42VT and line rehabilitation work along Dagupan and Marlones Sts. in Tondo.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 49VJ AND 51VJ

Portion of Chino Roces (Pasong Tamo) Ave. and Sablo St. from Don Bosco St. to near Amorsolo St. including Citimotors, Yulo Plaza Townhomes, AMA Computer College, La Fuerza, Edward Keller and Heidelberg Phils.

Portion of Amorsolo St. from near Joaquin St. to A.S. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road) in Bgy. San Lorenzo.

Along Joaquin St., San Lorenzo Drive and Juan Luna St. from Amorsolo to Hernandez St. including Assumption College, Apostol, Tolentino, Balmori, Abelardo, Estrella, Zipper and portion of Ponce Sts. in San Lorenzo Village.

Along Hidalgo St. from Amorsolo to Juan Luna St. including Roche, Molantic, Tampingco, Zaragoza, Edades Sts. and Zulueta Circle in San Lorenzo Village.

Portion of Chino Roces Ave. Ext. (Pasong Tamo Ext.) from Lumbang St. to and including Bristol Laboratories, Anson's Bldg., House of Sara Lee, UPRC, General Electric, Toyota-Pasong Tamo, Jannov Plaza, Technology Center, G & A Bldg., Goulds Pumps, IITS Bldg., Sterling Place, Prestige Cars - Makati and Yupangco Music Corp. Bldg. in Kayamanan "C".

Portion of Jerry, Capt. M. Reyes, and Hen. Mascardo Sts. from P. Binay to South Superhighway including portions of A. Apolinario, Hen. V. Lim, Hen. A. Luna, Hen. G. Del Pilar Sts., Rodriguez Ave., Cityland V Bldg. and RGV Dev't. in Bgy. Bangkal.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 416VJ, AND PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 49VJ AND 51VJ

Portion of Chino Roces Ave. and Amorsolo St. from Joaquin to Lumbang Sts. including Ecology Village units 45-84, Mantrade, Ayalaport, Roche, DMCI, PIECO, Levi's, Glaxo-Smithkline, Kodak, Liwayway, Alciel, Universal Motors, Coca-Cola Makati Sales Office, Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, PDIC, Wyeth Suaco, Francisco Motors, Don Bosco, Caltex, Racks Restaurant, portion of Dasmariñas Village in Bgys. Kayamanan "B" and "C".

Portion of Ponce St. from Amorsolo to near Abelardo St. including Lipay, Briones, Garcia Villa and Arquilla Sts. in San Lorenzo Village.

Portion of EDSA from Amorsolo St. to near Mirafiores St. including Mantrade Automotive Corp. and MRT-Magallanes Station in Bgy. San Lorenzo.

REASON: Various line repair and maintenance work along Amorsolo St. in Bgys. Kayamanan "B" and "C", Makati City.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2003

CAVITE (BACOOR, IMUS AND GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI, 09/19/03) AND 5:30AM (SAT, 09/20/03) - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS IMUS 34WK AND 35WK, AND PALICO 37ZE AND 38ZE

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Tirona Highway to Meralco-Imus substation including 1st Reyville Subd., Cavite Coliseum & Derby Center, Camella Homes and Reyville Subd. in Bacoor; Villanueva Subd., Real Subd., Maxima Subd., Sarreal Subd., Doña Dionisia Subd., Villa Nicasia, Better Life Subd., Pacmac, Holiday Village, Villa Amparo, Southern City Homes, Lily Pla Subd., Villa Leticia, Pfandel Subd., Monti Textile Mfg. and Makro in Bgys. Bayan Luma and Tanzang Luma in Imus.

Along Nuevo Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to and including Tahimik St., Imus Public Market, Vina Village, Imus Institute, Imus Municipal Academy, Imus Municipal Hall, Gen. Garcia Park, Del Pilar Academy, Santiago Subd., Poblacion 4, Gen. Castañeda, Tirona, Gen. Salonga Sts. in Imus; Villanueva, Elises and Abella Sts. in Bacoor.

Portion of Tirona Highway from Aguinaldo Highway to and including Bos. Mabalo, Habay, J. S. Subd. and Palo Alto Subd. in Bacoor.

Along Palico Road from Aguinaldo Highway to Molino Road including portion of Buhay na Tubig in Imus; Cherry Homes, Greenplains, Addas Village, DSM Subd., Villa Verde, Villa Angelina, Addas Village 4, Hother's Village and Console Village in Bgys. Mambog and Bayanan in Bacoor.

Along Molino Road from Nograles Subd. in Bo. Ligas to Queen's Row including Ecotrend Subd., Rofil Village, Addas Village 1 & 2, Camella San Nicolas, Celestino Subd., Paula Homes, Wood Estate, Orient Village, Susana Homes, Progressive Village 3, Act Infant Jesus Subd., Kaunlaran Village, Macaria Homes and Kalayaan Subd. in Molino, Ligas and Bayanan in Bacoor.

Along Queen's Road including Holy Infant Jesus High School, Gardenia Valley, Green Valley Subd., Camella Springville Classic, San Lorenzo Ruiz Homes, St. Joseph Homes, Queen's Row Subd. and Camella Springville-North in Bgy. Molino, Bacoor.

Along Bayan Luma Road from Aguinaldo Highway to and including Bo. Manalo, Iglesia ni Kristo, Bgy. Alapan II, Bliss Housing in Gen. Trias; Mary-Cris Homes, Bo. Bucandala, Ville Felicisima Subd. and Sarreal Subd. in Imus.

Along Malagasang Road from Bayan Luma Road to near Christian Joan School including Pag-asa Subd., Bgy. Malagasang I, Manuela Subd., MWSS, Mandarin Homes II, Hayag Motor Works and Machine Shop and Francis Rice Mill in Imus.

Along Alapan Road from Bayan Luma Road to and including Bo. Medicion, Bo. Alapan, Lakersfield Homes, Alfonso Village, Westwood Homes, Bgy. Pag-asa, Mikasell Subd. and Medicion St. in Imus.

Along Carsadang Bago from Alapan Road to near Gen. F. Yengco Ave. including Narra Homes, Gardenville Subd., Villa Lasquete and Woodstock Homes in Imus.

REASON: Erection of 90 ft. steel pole near Meralco-Bacoor substation.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003

BULACAN (MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MEYCAUAYAN 43YM AND 45YM

Portion of Iba-Camalig Road from Meralco-Meycauayan substation to North Diversion Road including Ingesco, Gulzon Indl. Inc., Bulacan Bottling, Ertess Plastic, Best Print, AGII Compound and State Ave. in Bgy. Iba.

Portion of North Diversion Road from Iba-Camalig Road to near Main Ave. including Salud Subd., St. Francis Subd., Faxter Indl. Mfg., Sta. Clara de Montefalco Hospital and Pacific Concrete Products in Bgy. Malhacan.

Portion of Camalig Road from near Zig-Zag Hills St. to and including USE Mfg. Compound, Doña Josefina Vilage and Emily Ville in Bo. Bulak.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MEYCAUAYAN 43YM AND 45YM

Portion of Iba-Camalig Road from near North Diversion Road to near Daungan St. including Eastern Textile Mills in Bgy. Malhacan.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Iba-Camalig Road in Bgy. Malhacan, Meycauayan Bulacan to clear rehabilitation of Meycauayan Interchange.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 43VU

Along B.F. Road, J. Delgado, Encarnacion, V. Salazar, S. Benito Sts. and Sampaguita Ave. from near Don Mariano Marcos Ave. to Fern Village including Doña Juana Subd., B.F. Homes Subd. - Q.C., Isadora Hills Subd., Granwood Villas, Magre Subd., Mapayapa Village I, II and III, Kapalaran Subd., Central Bank Employees Homes, Silverland Village, Doña Petrona Subd., Pingkian Village and FEU Cpd. in Bgys. Pasong Tamo and Holy Spirit.

REASON: Reconductoring work along BF Road, Sampaguita, Benito and Narra Sts. in preparation for the expansion of Kaybiga Feeder #7.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

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STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, who was stabbed repeatedly while shopping in an exclusive department store, died Thursday morning, doctors and government officials said.

LINDH

Lindh, 46, died just before 5:30 a.m., after more than 10 hours of surgery, Prime Minister Goeran Persson said.

"It's with great sadness that I have the information that Anna Lindh died," Persson said. "It feels strange and it's difficult to understand."

Choking on his words, he said the Scandinavian country's tradition of openness was damaged by the killing of the popular Lindh.

"The attack against her also hurt the society we've built up and in which we want to live in," he told reporters.

Lindh, who was attacked Wednesday, had spent most of the night being operated on at Karolinska Hospital. She suffered severe internal bleeding and liver and stomach injuries.

Lindh was stabbed in the stomach, chest and arm, and police were searching for a man wearing a camouflage jacket who fled the store.

The death shocked a nation that has long prided itself on the accessibility of its politicians. Like many officials, she didn't use a bodyguard.

Police said they didn't believe the attack was politically motivated, but it stirred memories of the unsolved murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme, who was killed while walking home from a downtown movie theater with his wife in 1986.

The attack also cast a pall over Sweden's upcoming referendum to decide whether to adopt the euro as its currency. Campaigning on the issue was postponed for at least a day. It wasn't known if Sunday's referendum vote would be delayed.

Jan Larssen, a government spokesperson, said the "issue had been raised" but added it would be a "very big, complicated project to move an election day."

Lindh, who was No. 3 in the government and a leading supporter of the European Union's common currency, was often touted as a possible successor to Persson.

Lindh was head of the Foreign Ministry since 1998, serving as environmental minister before that. She was a member of the Riksdag, or parliament, from 1982-1985. She is married and has two children.

"For some people, this may bring back all the terrible memories of years back when Prime Minister Olof Palme was killed," said Green Party leader Per Eriksson. "This may very well lead to Swedish politicians having to have bodyguards from now on."

Only Persson and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf have personal security details, said Lars Danielsson, a senior government aide.

Politicians in Scandinavia are often seen walking along the street or riding subways without police protection. In neighboring Denmark, Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller often goes grocery shopping without police protection.

Lindh was shopping at the upscale Nordiska Kompaniet department store, blocks away from the parliament building, when she was stabbed just before 4 p.m. Wednesday, shopper Hanna Sundberg said.

Sundberg said she saw a man chase Lindh up an escalator.

"She fell on the floor and the man was stabbing her in the stomach," she said. "When he ran away, he threw the knife away."

Sundberg ran to Lindh and the politician told her: "God, he has stabbed me in the stomach!" Then, Sundberg said she saw blood.

Police were analyzing the store's security videotapes to learn more about the assault. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel considers fresh strikes

JERUSALEM—Israel's foreign minister said Israeli leaders, holding an emergency session on Thursday after two suicide bombings, should ignore US objections and expel Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. "We are now in a situation that if we ask for such permission (from Washington), it will be virtually impossible to get it," Silvan Shalom told Army Radio. "But sometimes, there are situations where you have to make decisions independent of outside influence." Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, cutting short a trip to India after 15 Israelis were killed in suicide bombings in Jerusalem and near Tel Aviv on Tuesday, prepared to consult his security cabinet on further military moves against Palestinian militants. On Wednesday an Israeli warplane narrowly failed to assassinate Mahmoud al-Zahar, a leader of the Hamas group that claimed responsibility for the two bombings, but killed his son and a bodyguard in a missile strike on his home in Gaza. The wave of tit-for-tat violence has drowned a US-backed peace plan in blood. ***Reuters***

Suicide bomber in Iraq kills child

ARBIL, Iraq—A suicide bomber in northern Iraq killed himself and an Iraqi child and wounded more than 50 people, including six US personnel, according to local people and the US military on Wednesday. The military also announced the deaths of two more American soldiers, killed by makeshift bombs in Baghdad, as US President George Bush appealed to other nations to set aside "past bickering" to help with peacekeeping and reconstruction. In the fifth vehicle bomb attack in Iraq in as many weeks, a four-wheel drive stopped suddenly in front of a house in the Kurdish city of Arbil on Tuesday and exploded with the driver inside, residents said. They said the house was used by US intelligence agents. A military spokesperson initially said it had been a "safe house." ***Reuters***

Singapore labs probed in SARS case

SINGAPORE—Investigations into a mysterious single SARS case in Singapore narrowed on Thursday to two laboratories where a scientist worked before catching the disease. Research on SARS was done at one of them. China, widely accused of covering up this year's initial outbreak of the flu-like disease, said it was pulling out all the stops to prevent a resurgence. Beijing airport was keeping aircraft from Singapore away from the main terminal and passengers from the city-state would undergo separate health checks, state media said. Shanghai adopted similar measures. Taipei and Hong Kong, both hit hard by the last outbreak, also tightened health checks on people arriving from Singapore after the 27-year-old Singaporean scientist tested positive for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome on Tuesday. The World Health Organization, which had declared the global outbreak over in July, said it would send two experts "at the request of the Singapore government" this weekend to help the city-state review laboratory safety. ***Reuters***

Bush meets Dalai Lama

WASHINGTON—Over Chinese objections, US President George W. Bush met on Wednesday with the Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, and urged both sides to try to work out their differences through dialogue. "The president reiterated the strong commitment of the United States to the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic identity," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said in a statement. "The president also declared his strong support for the Dalai Lama's commitment to the dialogue with China. The president said he would seek ways to encourage China to continue the dialogue on a substantive basis and expressed his hope that the Chinese government would respond favorably," McClellan said. ***Reuters***

N. Korea has more capable missile–US

WASHINGTON—North Korea has used Russian technology to develop a new intermediate range ballistic missile that may be the most capable and accurate system in Pyongyang's inventory, US officials said on Wednesday. There also are "indications" the North Koreans have begun limited production of the longer-range Taepo Dong 2 missile, which can reach the continental United States, and this could mean the weapon is nearly ready for export, a senior US official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. ***Reuters***

The new state-of-the-art Diethelm Distribution Center

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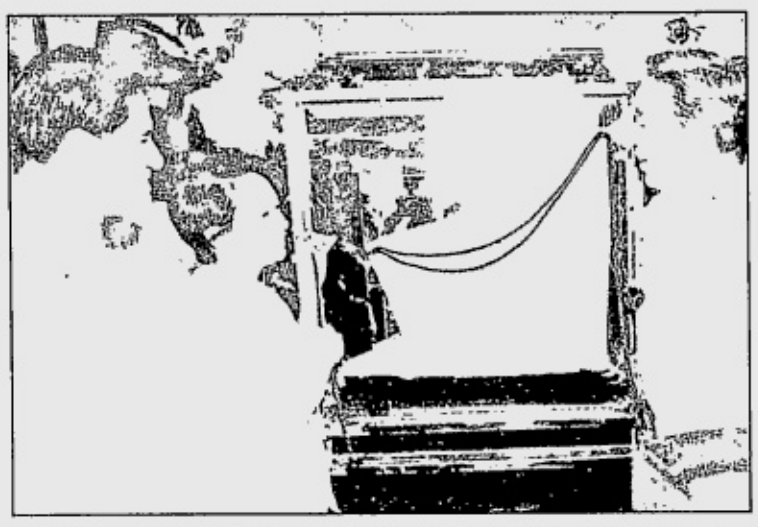

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo unveils the marker of the new Diethelm Distribution Center during its inauguration last September 6, 2003. Looking on are DOH Sec. Manuel Dayrit (left) and Mr. Butch Campos, Chairman and CEO of Unilab (right)

Introducing a bigger, stronger Diethelm Philippines.

Diethelm Philippines (DPI) revitalizes its distribution leadership here as it brings world-class expertise and technology to its brand new headquarters in Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna.

A leading force in Asia, Europe, and the Philippines.

DKSH is the number 1 marketing, services and distribution group in Asia, focusing on Healthcare and Consumer Goods. DKSH has in its roster of alliances pharma giants like Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Roche and Bristol-Myers Squibb. Diethelm Philippines, a joint venture between United Laboratories (Unilab) and the global pharmaceutical distributions company of DKSH, includes in its roster United Laboratories, Solvay, Alcon, Issho Genki, Cerebos, Berna, Multi-Care, Nestle, Coloplast, Mead Johnson, Hexal, Lundbeck, ABS-Gen Herbs, AM-Euro Pharma and Dyson Laboratories.

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- 6-high 25,000 pallet location racking system includes fully air-conditioned and refrigerated sections

The President views the automatic label applicator and computerized conveyor system with, from left, Mr. Carlos C. Ejercito, President & COO, Unilab; Mr. Butch Campos, Chairman & CEO, Unilab; Mr. Jeffrey D. Campos, VP-EO, Unilab; Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro; Laguna Rep. Ulran Joaquin and Dr. Joerg Wolle, President & CEO, DKSH Holding Ltd.

A brand new strategic base in the Philippines.

Mr Ejercito presents to the President a scale model of the Unilab Pharma Campus. From left: Mr. Ben Yap, SVP-Distribution, Unilab; Mr. Jeffrey D. Campos, VP-EO, Unilab; Mr. Butch Campos, Chairman & CEO, Unilab; Dr. Joerg Wolle, President & CEO, DKSH Holding Ltd.; Mr. Carlos C. Ejercito, President & COO, Unilab; Laguna Rep. Ulran Joaquin, Mr. Juergen Hirschberg, President & GM, DPI; President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo; Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro; Dr. Guido Oelkers, Global Healthcare Head, DKSH; and DOH Sec. Manuel Dayrit

Set on the sprawling 44-hectare Unilab Pharma Campus in Laguna, the new DPI Distribution Center was built to be no less than the benchmark for distribution and logistics practice and technology not only in the Philippines, but in the region as well. A gargantuan one-roof structure occupying 31,000 square meters and housing close to a billion pesos' worth of investment, the Center is designed to fulfill the orders of pharmaceutical and consumer trade customers from a single source to the entire Philippine archipelago in the most advanced, efficient and cost-effective manner possible. In the words of Mr. Butch Campos, Chairman and CEO of Unilab, "the centralized warehousing concept of Diethelm Philippines will yield significant economies of scale and distribution efficiencies. This will redound to the benefit of the consumers through more affordable quality products delivered at the right time and place." With a storage capacity of 25,000 pallets (around 900,000 cartons), the DPI Distribution Center is simply the biggest in the Philippines.

Not just nationwide. Asiawide.

The new DPI and its new Distribution Center are clearly geared for the future, ready to take on not only the demands of distribution in the Philippine market, but the bigger, more competitive regional Asian market. Dr. Joerg Wolle, President and CEO of DKSH Holding Ltd., says it best: "With the opening of this world-class facility, a dream has come true for our group. It also makes us proud to be an important partner to the Philippines' healthcare system."

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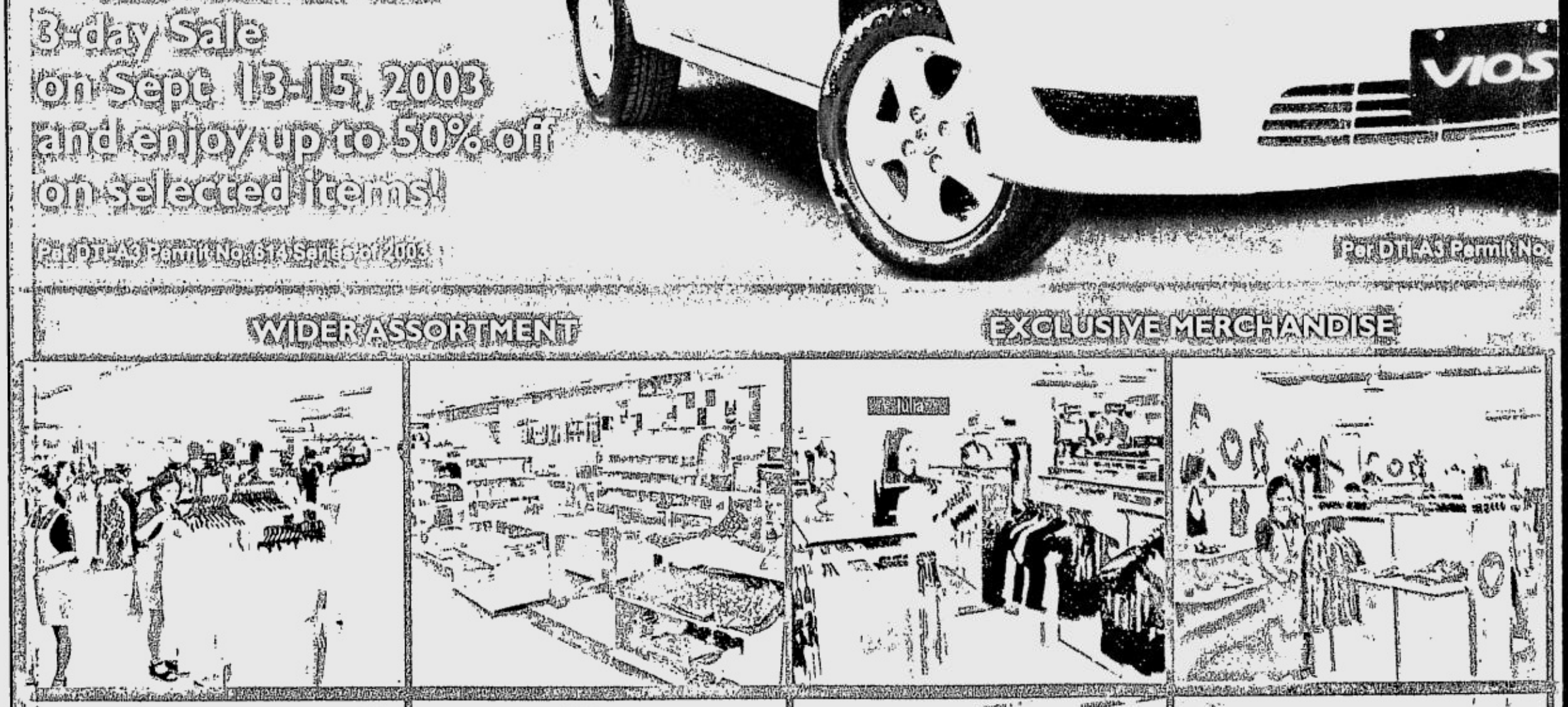

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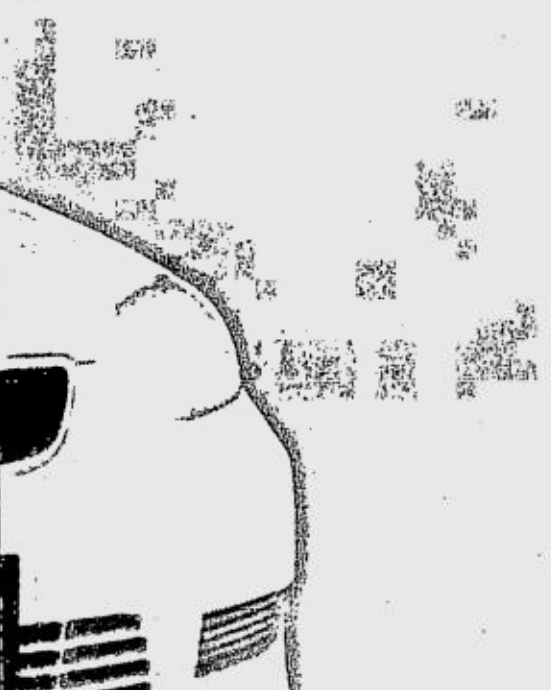

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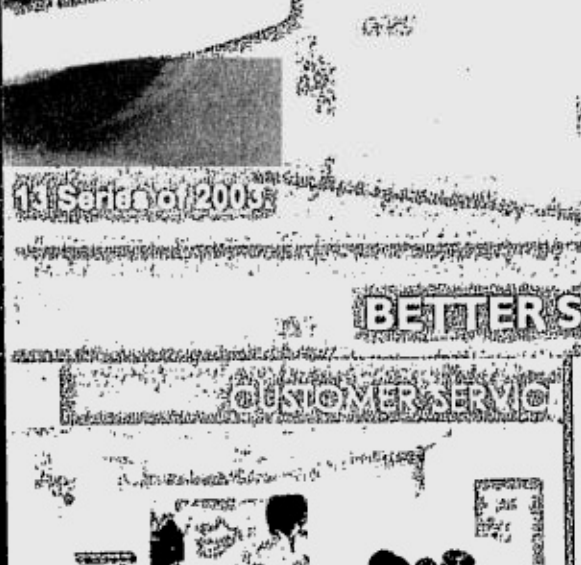

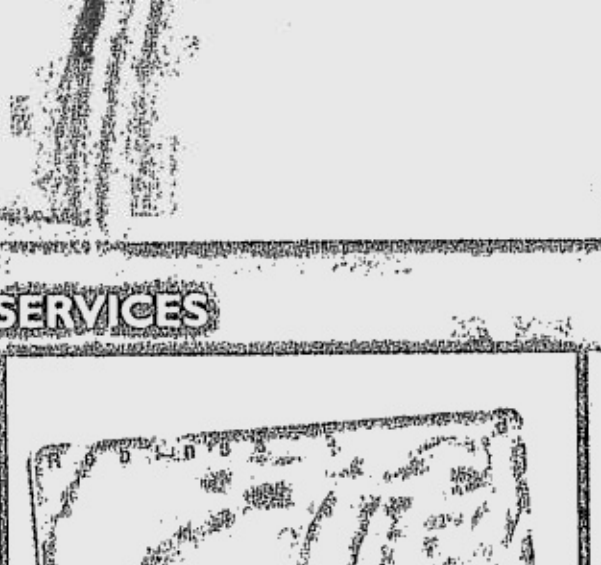

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Admission of failure

EDITORIAL

WITHIN a span of four days, the nation has witnessed two gruesome murders. Last Tuesday, Lilia Diaz, assistant general manager for finance and administration of the Manila International Airport Authority, was shot dead as she was being driven to work. The daylight murder happened just a few days after the gangland-style execution of radio broadcaster Jun Pala in Davao City. Pala was the sixth journalist killed this year, and the 40th since 1986.

The two murders have further deepened the general sense of insecurity of an already edgy nation that is still reeling from the aftershocks of the failed July 27 coup attempt. And it hardly helps ease the general anxiety that the two recent victims were not your ordinary man in the street.

Notwithstanding the glowing statistics showing declining crime rates periodically dished out by the Philippine National Police, what sticks in every Filipino's mind are some spectacular crimes that the police, as if by force of habit, seem unable to solve. These include the daylight robbery of the Citibank headquarters in Makati last Aug. 25 by heavily armed men in Makati and a similar heist a few weeks earlier at an Equitable PCIBank branch also located in the heart of the country's business center; the assassinations of former New People's Army chief Romulo Kintanar at the Quezon Memorial Circle and John Campos and Baron Cervantes in Metro Manila suburbs; the two bombings in Davao this year; and the incredible escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from a maximum security detention center inside the PNP headquarters.

Insinuations, coming from no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo and top law-enforcement officials, that the recent surge in "spectacular" crimes, along with the coup rumors, are part of a destabilization plot, have only further exacerbated the feeling of unease, if not fear. Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, told reporters that the political and civilian components of the destabilization plot were behind the series of high-profile bank robberies, kidnappings and anti-government rallies. Not to be outdone, Interior Secretary Jose Lina said the Citibank robbery was apparently staged to create a "picture of disorder and helplessness" on the part of law enforcement agencies, which can then be "used as a political platform by some political groups."

In these official statements, people inevitably read a hint of admission that the government may not be in full control of the situation anymore. If the authorities are certain that crimes have been committed in furtherance of a destabilization plot, why haven't they exposed the people behind it and charged them in court? If the government does not have sufficient evidence yet, why telegraph the message that the authorities know what these people are up to?

Now comes PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane with the dangerous idea of arming barangay captains.

The PNP is already hard put to control the proliferation of unlicensed firearms. This bright move of the highest police official is sure to increase some more the number of guns in the hands of civilians.

Instead of preventing crime, Ebdane's decision to let barangay chairs carry firearms could very well bring about more danger. Instead of helping maintain peace in the community, it is bound to heighten the citizen's anxieties. Even among our police officers, many have been found to be psychologically and emotionally unfit to carry firearms. How much more among the thousands of barangay chairs?

Has the PNP become so helpless or desperate in trying to control crime that it must now risk the safety of civilians by putting guns in the hands of just about anyone with any claim to authority in the community?

With the national elections just nine months away, it would not be difficult to imagine how some of these barangay chieftains will employ their new fire power. Ebdane is acting as if he has not heard of private armies and local bullies terrorizing voters and poll officials.

But maybe Ebdane is telling us that the situation has gone so bad that the PNP can no longer measure up to its primary responsibility of maintaining peace and order, and that henceforth it is each man for himself. If this were so, then why doesn't he turn over his job to somebody who can put the PNP in fine fighting form?

Don't be an irresponsible pet owner

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE INQUIRER reported last week that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is looking for families willing to adopt cats. It seems that the DENR compound in Quezon City has been overpopulated by cats, and environment officials, of all people, think the problem can be solved by farming out the cats to kind-hearted families.

I don't think that would solve the problem, and the DENR ought to have known better. Even if 99 percent of the cats (which numbered more than 40 as of last count) were adopted and only one pair were left, it would soon multiply again and the problem would be back in a matter of months. Cats multiply quite rapidly; a kitten matures and bears a litter within six months, each female of which will give birth to its own litter in another six months, while their mother will give birth to its second litter, and so on and on.

In addition, the cats adopted will bear their own litters that will also multiply unless they are spayed or neutered. Male cats will sow wild oats if not neutered.

The solution, therefore, is to have those cats in the DENR compound spayed and neutered. Then they can be released and won't multiply. Owners of cats and dogs should be taught to have their pets spayed or neutered if they are not to be used for breeding.

There are many irresponsible pet owners who are causing the proliferation of dogs and cats loose in the streets (they're called "*askals*" and "*pusakals*," meaning "*asong kalye*" and "*pusang kalye*").

A person finds a puppy or kitten of a friend cute and takes it home. When it gives birth to a litter months later, he is not willing to care for the puppies or kittens. He tries to give them away. But of those not adopted, the irresponsible pet owner thinks nothing of abandoning them in parks, vacant lots, or sidewalks far away from home so they won't be able to find their way back ("*inililigaw*" in standard Filipino parlance).

These abandoned animals live a difficult, pitiful existence. They scrounge for food in garbage cans. They are attacked by other dogs or stoned by cruel boys. They are susceptible to diseases and parasites. Male dogs and cats impregnate the females which now have to take care not only of themselves but also of their litters. They may get infected with rabies and pass this on to other animals or to humans. Some of them are run over by vehicles. Others die wretchedly on garbage heaps or under bushes. Irresponsible pet owners never think of these when they throw away their kittens and puppies.

In other countries, it is a crime to abandon pets. Violators are meted out stiff fines and jail terms. When I was in Connecticut sometime ago, it was big news in the newspapers and television when four kittens were found abandoned in a box in a park. That would have elicited little reaction from our own police force, but the Connecticut police took great pains to trace the owner and, when they found him, fined and jailed him. We should have a law like that, perhaps added to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) which punishes cruelty to animals.

Also in other countries, the governments catch cats, have them spayed or neutered, then release them back in the parks. That way, they don't multiply. Cats in the wild, by the way, are predators and just one colony of them in a park can decimate the bird population.

Dogs belonging to irresponsible owners are a bigger problem because they are bigger than cats, may carry rabies and sometimes attack humans.

Even in upscale neighborhoods where supposedly intelligent and educated families live, irresponsible owners think nothing of letting their dogs loose so they don't have to clean their yards of dog poop. So what if their dogs defecate on the sidewalks and streets and scatter the garbage? It saves them the trouble of cleaning up after them in their own yards.

So at night, these supposedly educated residents turn their dogs loose in the streets where they can bite their passing neighbors. The dogs are supposed to guard their masters' homes, but how can they do that when they're out in the streets and away from home at night when they're most needed? Owners also think they love their dogs when they turn them loose at night. But dogs are exposed to many dangers at night. They can be run over by vehicles; they can be stolen by dognappers or by drunkards looking for "*pulutan*"; they can be attacked by packs of dogs; they can be poisoned or even shot by an irate neighbor.

Moreover, the owner can be sued by a neighbor or a total stranger attacked by the dog. In our village, an old man was attacked by a neighbor's dog while he was walking home from work. He fell and broke his arm. He spent weeks in a hospital and more months at home unable to work while he waited for his arm to heal inside a plaster cast. He should have sued the dog's owner for his medical expenses, loss of income and damages to teach him a lesson.

The moral of this piece is this: If you can't be a responsible owner, don't get a pet. If you want a pet, take good care of it.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Monday's invited guests to the Kapihan sa Manila are Sen. Edgardo Angara and Jess Santos, lawyer of the Arroyo brothers who have suddenly become shy and have tried to dodge questions on the Jose Pidal bank accounts and their San Francisco, USA properties.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Accidentally meeting Sen. Panfilo Lacson at a public function, President Macapagal-Arroyo told him she would get even with Lacson for making life hard for First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"If you ever become President," she warned, "*pahihirapan ko rin ang First Gentleman mo*."

Positive, negative

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A COUPLE of months ago, I spoke at the INQUIRER's youth forum. The topic assigned to me was "good news, bad news." I found in it an opportunity to talk about our weird concepts of good and bad, positive and negative, constructive and destructive.

Almost automatically, I said, we assume that what is good, posirive and constructive are stories and commentaries that do not criticize, that do not reveal the ugly side of our national life, that dwell only, or largely, with Filipino accomplishments and acts of heroism. Equally automatically, we assume that what is bad, negative and destructive are stories and commentaries that do not praise, that do not reveal the bright side of our national life, that dwell only, or largely, with corruption, perfidy and mayhem.

I granted that media tended toward excess and that the charge of sensationalism or "tabloidism" hurled against them by Jaime Cardinal Sin, among others, was not entirely undeserved. But I said the premise that often underlay that criticism, which was our concept of good and bad news, was flawed. It immediately consigned to the category of bad "investigative journalism" which is expressly devoted to ferreting out the evil that men do, and to the category of good PR which is expressly devoted to squeezing dry the milk of human kindness from very lean humans.

It wasn't true at all that good, or positive, or constructive meant stories that extolled or saw only individual or collective accomplishment. In fact, it was often bad, negative and destructive in the extreme. That was what media practiced during martial law, the highest point of which was when they bannered some new PD or other by Marcos the day after Ninoy Aquino was laid to rest by a torrential crowd that burst down the streets of Manila.

Just as well, it wasn't true at all that bad, negative, or constructive meant stories that damned or uncovered stench and rottenness particularly in high places. In fact, it was often good, positive and constructive in the extreme. That was what the "mosquito press" practiced during Marcos' time, the highest point of which was when Joe Burgos, who had already been jailed and lived under the shadow of fear, printed in the Malaya Boni Gillego's articles that showed Marcos' war medals to be fake.

The lesson is clear: To talk of good news while corruption and tyranny thrive is not good news. To carp about and fight them, that is the good news.

It's the same thing with politics.

I remembered that talk above after hearing several public officials say that for the political summit to succeed, the administration and opposition officials must first agree to set aside their differences and put recrimination on hold. We live in a "poisoned atmosphere," Franklin Drilon in particular says. We have to dispel that before we can forge ahead and blaze a path to a better tomorrow.

Not at all. To begin with, I don't know what we need a political summit for. The whole purpose of that seems precisely to prevent stench and corruption from coming out. Adam Smith, who believed more than any man in the providential workings of the market, himself said that precious few merchants gathered together without plotting to defraud the public. The same might be said of a gathering of merchants of power, also called politicians. Precious few of them do so without plotting to deceive the public. A political summit seems only likely to turn into a negotiation in the balance of terror: I will stop revealing this about you if you stop revealing this about me—at least until we get to the elections. That might be good news for them but it is not so for the country.

In fact, there is nothing poisoned about our political climate today. It is no more poisoned than when Chavit Singson, who himself did not have the most sterling credentials, and whose motives were far from unquestionable, came out with his exposé about Erap extorting *jueteng* money. I did not hear Drilon or the current Lakas officials complain then that our political atmosphere was poisoned. On the contrary, he and many others, who would later become the beneficiaries of the movement that ousted Erap, were saying it was a breath of fresh air in a stale room. They were right.

So are Lacson's revelations, notwithstanding that he has even less sterling credentials and that his motives are even more questionable. I've heard people complain that the senators are wasting taxpayers' money investigating this and that rather than making laws. My answer to that is that the taxpayers will lose even more money if their taxes went to improve the fortunes of one Mr. Jose Pidal or went to buy bullets that would be auctioned later on to the highest bidder. I do not see how you can make laws while ignoring, or even raising them on the bones of, iniquity. That is the poisoned atmosphere, or worse the poisoned ground from which to grow grain.

Exposing evil is not a negative thing, it is a positive one. It serves society, no matter if it comes from a poisoned source, as Edsa II amply shows. It is no more valid to blame senators for driving away investors by accusing the President or her husband of wrongdoing than it is to blame the media for doing so. What scares investors is not the report of wrongdoing, it is the wrongdoing. What appeases investors is not not reporting the wrongdoing, it is not committing it.

What is wrong is not that we keep mounting an Edsa again and again, it is that we keep having the same reasons to do so again and again. Edsa is not the problem, it is the solution. We can't learn its lessons the first time around, by all means let's have it again and again.

Living in harmony with iniquity, that is not positive, that just plain sucks.

Wishful thinking

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint filed by deposed President Joseph Estrada against eight justices of the Supreme Court hurdled a procedural obstacle on Wednesday, when the House of Representatives Committee on Justice voted 13-4 to declare it "sufficient in form." The vote will not move the complaint forward unless upheld by a simple majority (33 votes) of the committee's total membership of 64.

If the the committee hands down a majority vote, it has until Oct. 15 to decide whether the complaint is "sufficient in form and substance," before it can make a report to the House plenum. An impeachment complaint requires at least 74 votes or two-thirds of the House before it can be referred to the Senate, the impeachment tribunal, for trial.

The odds are stacked against the complaint reaching the stage of trial, and it would be wishful to think that the 13-4 vote in the Committee on Justice is a "victory" for Estrada.

This is the first time in the history of our judicial and political system that an impeachment complaint has been initiated en masse against a large number of Supreme Court justices—all the eight who attended the oath-taking of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as President, at the Edsa Shrine, administered by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

In his complaint, Estrada accused the justices of "culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of the public trust," with their participation in a "conspiracy" to swear in the Vice President.

Members of the Supreme Court are among a select class of public officers—including the President and Vice President—who may be removed from office by impeachment "upon conviction of culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust."

As we have learned from the Senate trial of Estrada, an impeachment is a deadly serious business that drains and diverts the energy of the nation from productive pursuits. It involves a tedious process of proving a case with evidence, mocking the burlesque of congressional inquiries—a forum for reckless character assassination.

For an impeachment is a mechanism to remove public officials, through a formal process, albeit partly political, that involves a serious effort of receiving evidence. On the contrary, most of the victims of congressional investigations are private citizens who are being put on the dock for offenses no formal charge sheet is laid.

In the impeachment of leading executive officials and members of the Supreme Court, the legislature—with the Senate acting as the impeachment tribunal—exercises its function of holding justices and executive officials accountable under the notion that "public office is a public trust."

Estrada's complaint is an extension of a sustained action questioning the legitimacy of the accession of Vice President Macapagal to the presidency. It is his revenge on his successor. Now, Estrada has shifted his trajectory to the Supreme Court, which, in two decisions following Davide's swearing in of Vice President Macapagal, upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal succession.

Estrada's action included incitement of the poor rabble to attack the Malacañang Palace on May 1, 2001, his refusal to accept the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan to try the plunder case against him, his childish stunts expressing his distrust in the judicial system, and his lawyer's silly motion seeking a review or overturn by an inferior court, the Sandiganbayan, of the Supreme Court's decisions on legitimacy. The latest manifestation of Estrada's utter disrespect for institutional processes and key institutions upon whose pillars rest the foundation of a democratic republic is his being implicated (through his close associates) in the July 29 coup, as shown by government evidence.

Estrada and his apologists tend to trivialize institutional processes—like the impeachment complaint against the justices. The trivialization stems from Estrada's well-known record in the presidency of showing scant respect for institutions as tools for managing the affairs of the nation, as he depended mainly on personalistic instincts to run the complex business of the presidency.

The impeachment complaint against the justices is an attack not on the persons of the justices but on an institution which, in the last crisis of the republic in the Edsa II popular uprising, went out of its way to exercise judicial activism. Whether one likes it or not, it was judicial statesmanship to save the country from civil war. The complaint is essentially an attack on a political judgment of the Supreme Court and the justices' assessment of the gravity of the crisis of January 2001.

The allegations that the justices committed "culpable violation of the Constitution" and "other high crimes or betrayal of public trust" are bound to be contentious. It would take an awful lot of persuasive argument by lawyers to make a case for the contention that the justices engaged in a "conspiracy" to swear in the Vice President.

In determining conspiracy, it is important to examine the political context of that action the justices made in the midst of the threat of civil disorder. It is well to remember Justice Artemio Panganiban's interview with us, in the book "The Fall of Joseph Estrada," who underscored that the unanimous decision to swear in the Vice President was driven by "Davide's concern that allowing the anti-Estrada demonstrators to storm Malacañang could lead to bloodshed."

Where is the love?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN HIS critique of the recent Vatican document on homosexuality and same-sex unions, Stephen Pope, writing in the August issue of The Tablet, says that the document's "greatest difficulty from the point of view of Christian ethics" is that it "communicates no sense of love for those involved in 'homosexual unions,' and indeed none for gays and lesbians generally."

Pope says this "impression" is reinforced by the fact that, unlike other important Church documents, this latest one was prepared without going through the usual process of "consultation and conversation" with gays and lesbians. Indeed, notes Pope, "Though the Church has engaged in extensive official dialogues with Protestants, Jews and Muslims, it has yet to do so with gay and lesbian Catholics. The magisterium speaks about them but not to them. This leaves the impression of suspicion, disdain and fear, not respect and love of one's neighbor."

The document asserts that same-sex unions make no "significant or positive contribution to the development of the human person in society." But Pope inquires: "What kind of 'attack' on marriage has been experienced, for example, in Vermont or British Columbia, where same-sex unions are now recognized by the State? Have heterosexual identity and the institution of marriage been threatened or subverted in these places?"

Similar arguments, we must note, have been raised in this country against the possible legalization of divorce. Divorce, critics say, will threaten the "stability" of the family. But how? Will happy and loving couples bring an end to a marriage simply because it is now easier to obtain a divorce? And in marriages where one or both partners are miserable, abusive or unfaithful, staying intact only because of convention or financial need, would not divorce provide them the necessary relief and release?

* * *

THERE are other areas of contention in the Vatican document.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which prepared the document, argues that marriage as an institution "lies within the public interest because it provides for the 'succession of generations," writes Pope. "But marriage can be justified on the ground that it promotes love, stability, commitment and wider family ties. Childless marriages are neither invalid nor have they been shown to be detrimental to the common good."

Nowhere does the CDF acknowledge "the constructive role that their monogamy plays in the lives of gay and lesbian people who are committed to life-long and exclusive partnerships," Pope comments. "The real, existential choice facing many people is not between celibacy and sexual activity, but between monogamy and promiscuity. Some gay couples live in lifelong monogamous unions that not only allow their own love to deepen but also enhance their ability to love others. These unions empower their participants to contribute in important and constructive ways to their professions, Churches, schools, neighborhoods and wider communities. Blanket dismissal of this reality does not contribute to the document's credibility. It has been argued that legal recognition of their relationship can encourage gay men to give up sexual license in favor of the stability and love of committed monogamy. If banning legal protection weakens the level of commitment, the CDF is unwittingly contributing to conditions that encourage promiscuity."

* * *

WHAT Pope calls "the single most criticized claim" in the document is its assertion that allowing children to be adopted by same-sex couples subjects them to "violence," since it would not be "conducive to their full human development." If that is so, says Pope, then foster parents, single parents and parents with serious physical or psychological disabilities would likewise be guilty of inflicting "violence" on their children, raising them in less than optimal conditions. Adds Pope: "The use of the term 'violence' may even raise suspicions that the CDF is inciting hostility towards gays and lesbians by wider society; society detests no group more than those who use violence against children."

What the document fails to acknowledge is the "profound, long-lasting concrete good that is provided by some gay adoptive parents to their children. The concrete choice facing many children is not between a 'depraved' homosexual couple and a healthy and holy heterosexual family, but between an emotionally sterile institutional setting... and adoption by a same-sex couple committed to providing a stable, loving and respectful family environment for a child's upbringing."

* * *

BY ANOTHER stroke of fortune, I came upon a review of the book "A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America" just as I was contemplating a column on Pope's article.

The author, Peter Steinfels, a religion columnist for the New York Times, posits that "a wave of interrelated changes in society's views of gender, the family and reproduction... (constitutes) one of the great axial shifts in history, of the kind that reorient entire cultures."

The reviewer, Garry Wills, one of the most influential American Catholic writers, notes that "Catholics have overwhelmingly reflected the shift going on all around them, and are ignoring the Vatican's increasingly shrill orders to pay it no mind."

Much the same culture shift is going on in the Philippines, but in slower, less showy, but no less real ways. With their political clout and banking on the acquiescence of devout Pinoys, the bishops are flexing their lobbying muscles on social legislation. But unless they begin listening and engaging in genuine dialogue, they could sooner, rather than later, end up losing the battle where it counts: the hearts and minds of the people.

The legendary Urduja

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

TAWALISI is the name of an upscale Makati antique shop run by Kit Roxas which I frequent more for conversation than acquisition. Aside from window shopping and talking shop (learning a lot on identification of excavated porcelain and art circle gossip), I go for the humble *merienda* of hot *pan de sal* and coco jam which are always served on nice China and plate silver. The most common food, as my sister will tell you, is transformed by the table service. Once, when I was confined in the hospital, my chef sister brought along a picnic basket of home cooking. It was simple *tuyo* and *sinangag* that she swore tasted better with Christofle flatware. Historians are often faced with a similar situation as the above, sources that are a mix of reality and fiction. The true measure of a historian's work is knowing which is which.

Despite many afternoons spent in the Tawalisi antique shop, I never asked the owner how she chose that name. Most antique shops are named after the owners; E.M.J., or V.M., Jo-Liza or Terry's. Some have Filipiniana references like Likha, Katutubo, or Sinagtala. Some sport the foreign: Gallery Deus, Via Antica, or Ad Astra. Others don't even have a name! Tawalisi is believed to have been the land of Princess Urduja. The source is the 14th century traveler Ibn Batuta of India who left us with a travel account, part of which reads:

"Thereafter, we reached the land of Tawalisi, it being their king who is called by that name. It is a vast country and its king is a rival of the king of China. He possesses many junks, with which he makes war on the Chinese until they come to terms with him on certain conditions. The inhabitants of this land are idolaters; they are handsome men and closely resemble the Turks in figure. Their skin is commonly of a reddish hue, and they are brave and warlike. Their women ride on horseback and are skillful archers, and fight exactly like men.

"We put in at one of their ports, at the town of Kaylukari, which is among their finest and largest cities. It was formerly the residence of the son of their king. When we anchored in the port, their troops came down and the captain went ashore to them, taking with him a present for the prince. When he enquired of them about him, however, they told him that the prince's father had appointed him governor of another district and had made his daughter, whose name was Urduja, governor of this city.

"The day following our arrival at the port of Kaylukari, this princess summoned the ship's captain and clerk, the merchants and pilots, the commander of the foot soldiers and the commanders of the archers to a banquet which she had prepared for them, according to her custom. The captain wished me to go with them, but I declined because, being infidels, it is not lawful to eat their food. When they came into her presence she asked them if there was anyone else of their company who had not come. The captain replied, 'There is only one man left, a *bakshi* (that is, a *qadi*, in their tongue), and he will not eat your food.' Thereupon she said, 'Call him,' so her guards came [to me] along with the captain's party and said 'Comply with the princess' wish.' I went to her then, and found her sitting in full state. On my saluting her she replied to me in Turkish, and asked me from what land I had come. I said to her 'From the land of India.' 'From the pepper country?' she asked, and I replied 'Yes!' She questioned me about this land and events there, and when I had answered she said 'I must positively make an expedition to it and take possession of it for myself, for the quantity of its riches and its troops attracts me.' I replied 'Do so.' She ordered me to be given robes, two elephant loads of rice, two buffaloes, ten sheep, four pounds of syrup, and four martabans (that is, large jars) filled with ginger, pepper, lemons and mangoes, all of them salted, these being among the things prepared for sea voyages.

"The captain told that this princess has in her army women, female servants and slave-girls who fight like men. She goes out in person with her troops, male and female, makes raids on her enemies, takes part in the fighting and engages in single combat with picked warriors. He told me too that during a fierce engagement with certain of her enemies, many of her troops were killed and they were all but defeated, when she dashed forward and broke through the ranks until she reached the king against whom she was fighting and dealt him a mortal blow with her lance. He fell dead and his army took to flight. She brought back his head on the point of a spear, and his relatives redeemed it from her for a large sum of money. When she returned to her father he gave her this town, which had formerly been in her brother's hands. The captain told me also that she is sought in marriage by various princes, but she says 'I shall marry none but him who fights and overcomes me in single combat,' and they avoid fighting with her for fear of the disgrace [that would attach to them] if she overcame them."

Ibn Batuta then sailed 17 days from Tawalisi to China. Was Tawalisi part of the Philippines? Who said so? Is Princess Urduja for real? This is an interesting story that will be concluded on Wednesday.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Sheila's covey

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

LONG will we treasure a double milestone: a Magsaysay Award for Sheila Coronel the year her home organization, the Women Writers in Media Now (Women), turned 21. We will perhaps be forgiven for identifying with her completely as she receives signal recognition for the values that drew and kept us close together.

With forgiveness may also come understanding as joy is set in its context—the agonies and inspirations of the revolutionary Left which was Women's matrix. Like her predecessor RM Awardees for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts—the late film director Lino Brocka and the writer Bievenido Lumbera—Sheila belonged to the Left. Lest we forget, from its original brilliant, passionate and focused pioneering came the seeds of political ferment that led to Edsa '86.

That she moved on to build (and, more difficult, to sustain) the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism in activist alliance is only recent proof of the basic revolutionary impulse to confront ruling equations, political and otherwise, for the sake of the larger whole. What else would one call sparking another government's downfall with an exposé on its president's "housing program" for mistresses?

"The point however is to change it"—one of Sheila's favorite Marxist epigrams—has been amplified by this Magsaysay Award as she continues to go the distance of confronting steep historical hurdles to basic social justice. Our profession has a long way to go. Long after Marcos' military and crony media, more of us now seem to prefer sleep in a still unjust status quo to continued tightrope-walking against lingering tyranny.

A direct antithesis to this backslide are the ideals that created the indelible memory of a political peak experience in the parliament of the streets. Individual realizations simultaneously imploding and exploding in a collective moment of truth remain a national template to measure up to.

Etched beside that bittersweet historical triumph of the catalyzing Left are the grave failures of vision and leadership that led to the bitter falling-out that tore the National Democratic Front right down the middle. Having learned from its militancy and adapted even its language and organizing techniques toward people power's victory, this split-up was all archconservative foes and fair-weather friends in the parliament of the streets needed to dismiss the Left as a spent moral and political force. This story is not quite over however.

Breaking away from ranks that continued to require blind obedience and stultifying conformity beyond the life-threatening Marcos regime, Left originals and survivors have since fanned out as independent change agents in many sectors of society. Like Sheila Coronel, the best of them continue as leaven—not only for the masses but also, and more tellingly, in their own communities, professions and occupations.

Collectivity was all in their radical origins—a youthful counter-culture set farther aflame by liberation theology, identifying so keenly with the agony of the "poor, deprived, oppressed and exploited" it managed to push even a smug majority church hierarchy to march more closely with the Filipino majority.

On Sept. 6, 2003, Sheila's Magsaysay award was an irresistible summons to communal celebration at the UP Executive House. It came together almost like a rally—by word of mouth and its now ubiquitous extension, the cell phone. Former life-and-death allies who had not spent much time together, if they saw each other at all, since the traumas of the '80s and '90s, were together again—revelling at how time has sifted chaff from grain.

They also crowded around Haydee Yorac, wearing a facemask as protection from germs that could tilt the tide of her ongoing battle with cancer, listening in awe to her resolve not to die, lest a famous old *trapo* try to replace her at the PCGG. They giggled over old comrade Bobi Tiglao's futile attempt, under orders as presidential chief of staff, to get Newsbreak's Marites Vitug, a PCIJ original like himself, to go easy on the President and First Gentleman on Jose Pidal.

Politics is married to culture and the years have mellowed them both. Applause for the UP president's lady Princess Nemenzo, who bowed to popular demand with "La Vie en Rose" in perfect tongue, was as lusty as the laughter that met confrere Jojo Abinales' prodigious recall of old underground songs hilariously transliterated to carabao English.

"Comraderie" has aged into the fine wine of camaraderie in new realism, its bouquet deepened by humbling failures, its essence purified no less by financial crisis, AIDS, environmental destruction, globalization and our incumbent President's cozy relationship with America's hypocritical "war on terrorism," than by responsibilities growing with aging revolutionaries' middle-aged spreads.

The essential *kilusan* spirit remains buoyant, its new tales of individual walkabouts giving flesh to a powerful collective dream that refuses to die. Sheila's growing legend was perfectly caught by the birthday gift of her portrait done by her admirer Nonoy Marcelo three months before he died last year—a miniature Darna, flying "faster than a speeding rumor, stronger than a *trapo*'s stomach, able to leap tall tales in a single bound," as her witty *chela* Alecks Pablico put it. In the embrace of a home audience, Sheila gave and received strength to continue the good fight in ever new and more effective forms.

"Revolutionary culture to me resembles a flock of birds flying in the open sky... their jubilant freedom of creation, their continual feast," a Nicaraguan poet once wrote. Feet more firmly planted on the ground, it remains faithful—ready for new flight with our Darna of a newsgal.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues. Reply to slmayuga@yahoo.com

THEY SAID

Tribute to a co-worker

"Ronnie (Buenavenatura) was so cool and I loved his wicked sense of humor. He was always precise, reliable and helpful."

—Kaoruku Kitamaru on his United Nations Filipino co-worker who died in a bomb attack

Cory's contribution

"Her Excellency's contribution to peace is manifested yet for the dignity of the human person; and her profound conviction of the primacy of the spiritual over the material."

—University of Southern Philippines' Bonifacio Belen on former President Corazon Aquino who was this year's Rizal Peace Awardee

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10 Marikinas in Metro Manila?

IN A RECENT INQUIRER news report, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando was quoted as saying that he wanted to create 10 Marikinas in Metro Manila. Complete with a dump like Doña Petra? No thanks! Doña Petra has been ordered closed by the DENR and the LLDA, with several citizens' suits filed against Fernando for contaminating their ground water as well as the Marikina River. It is a testimony to Fernando's clout and powerful propaganda machine that he has managed to get away with all these violations and is even hailed as a hero by certain people while his cases sleep the sleep of the dead.

We would rather have garden cities like Singapore with all streets lined with wayside trees to neutralize and filter the deadly pollutants emitted by motor vehicles, the source of 70 to 80 percent of Metro Manila's air pollution. The right to health and a balanced ecosystem are constitutionally guaranteed rights and trees are the pillars of ecological balance. The killing of trees has already been identified by scientific studies as a cause of the enhanced flooding and loss of ground water in our urban areas.

And please don't replace our remaining precious and lovely trees with these tasteless, ugly urinals on our street sides. It's bad enough that thoughtless public officials have junked the blueprint for the beautiful garden cities envisioned by the original city planners of Metro Manila. But it is a gross insult to us Metro Manilans to have our cities turned into public "*orinolas*" or urinals, officially sanctioning "peeing" in public with only a minimal screen to hide a very private activity in a very public place. It is in fact in very bad taste and definitely against the "*urbanidad*" that Fernando loves to invoke.

These urinals also show Fernando's sexist mind-set since they obviously can serve only males. He says "peeing" is a need rather than a habit. Really? The fact is that women need "to go" more often than men because of their anatomical structure. But do you see them peeing in public? No, because they have learned to discipline themselves! If women who have more difficulty controlling the call of nature can do so, why can't the men? Where is Fernando's vaunted discipline? Flushed down the toilet like *urbanidad* and proper waste management?

—SOCORRO LAMMOGLIA,
2 New York St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

How about unexplained poverty?

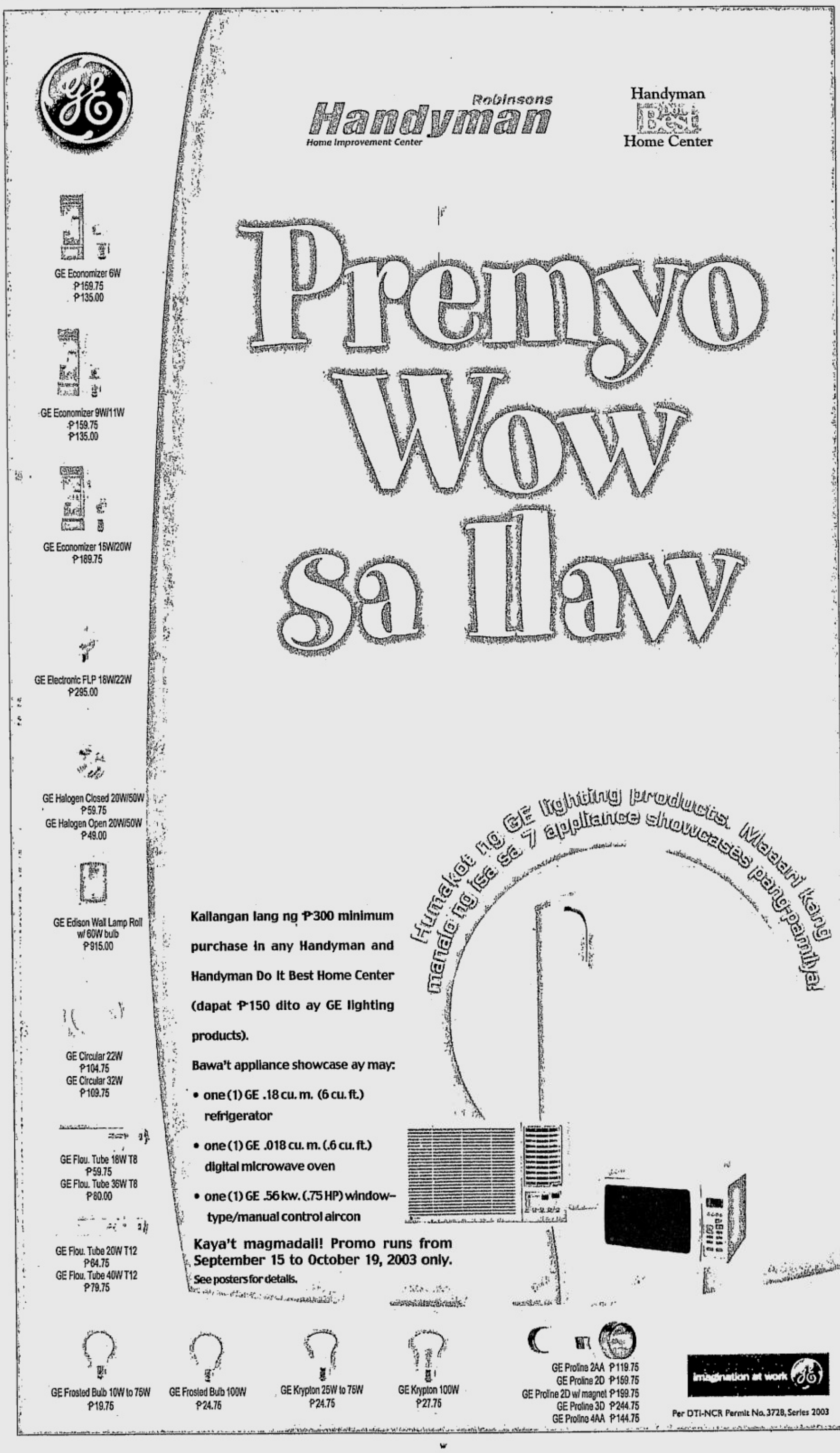
THE REMAINING honest and decent government employees should speak up against thieves and opportunists who give the bureaucracy the image of being a haven for corruption. This year marks my ninth year as a government employee. For all these years I've spent working in the government, my monthly pay was only recently raised to just over P20,000, which I think is already auspicious by government rank-and-file standards. Yet, I worry every day how in the world I can stretch my paycheck from the last payday to the next to keep my family from starving.

From my earnings I was able to buy only the humblest of home furnishings, two electric fans, a gas stove, a television set and a refrigerator sold to me at half the price by a friend who won it in a Christmas raffle five years ago. That's it. I have since stopped dreaming that someday I will be able to buy my dream house, and to this day I regret having made the monumental mistake of buying myself a second-hand car two years ago. I am still paying for my car loan long after that junk of a car quit running. My last statement of assets and liabilities produced a negative net worth.

Meantime, some smart-ass Customs employees I read in the papers have been reportedly living in style on half my salary. There was for instance this messenger at Customs who owns a house and lot and several cars worth millions of pesos. Unless this lucky guy happened to hit the jackpot in the lotto draw or stumbled upon the hidden treasure of General Yamashita, there's no way he can explain how he got rich. I understand that the ombudsman is bent on investigating him and many other instant millionaires in government for unexplained wealth. Maybe the ombudsman should also investigate me for unexplained poverty.

I plead guilty.

—ADIN B. ABILLAR,
4 Visayas Ave., Diliman, QC



Steps taken to enforce Clean Air Act

THIS is in response to the letter titled "Smoggy claim of achievement vs air pollution" written by Clemente G. Bautista Jr., of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would like to emphasize that the 15 percent reduction in the air pollution of the country was achieved through a multi-sectoral effort by different government agencies, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other concerned institutions. This multi-sectoral partnership is geared toward the effective implementation of the Clean Air Act and its various components.

The National Air Quality Status Report was distributed last month. The report tells of the air pollution mitigation efforts of various agencies concerned in the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

While it is true that the number of vehicles is increasing every year, it does not necessarily mean that the quality of air will keep on deteriorating.

We have to consider that among the 8.32 percent increase on vehicle population, around 3.7 million vehicles have renewed their registration and 490,881 vehicles are newly registered as revealed by the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

Therefore, one cannot say that the 500,000 newly registered vehicles are pollutive ones since the Clean Air Act specifically provides more stringent measures on local and imported vehicles that will be used in the country.

To add, we would like to support the observation that emission-testing does not ensure reduced emission of air pollutants. However, we would like to stress that it serves as a preventive measure against owners/operators of vehicles that emit excessive emission. It is also a tool in validating the efforts of government in providing cleaner fuels and ensuring that motorists observe proper vehicle maintenance and driving habits, the key components in cleaner emissions.

In line with the efforts to provide clean fuels, the DENR and the Department of Energy (DOE) have forged partnerships with oil companies for the early reduction of sulfur in diesel from 0.2 percent to .05 percent starting November this year. It will also be recalled that the DOE mandated the reduction of benzene by 2 percent and aromatics by 35 percent since Jan. 1, 2003 as provided for in the Clean Air Act.

Moreover, we would also like to inform you that measures are being undertaken on industrial emissions. One particular move was shutting down, as early as January 2002, the Sucat Power Plants and the Manila Power Thermal Plants which will serve as the baseline data in monitoring the air quality compliance activities of industries in the country.

Again, we would like to emphasize that cleaning the air is everyone's concern. The public can rest assured as well as other concerned sectors of society that we are doing everything we can to implement the law.

—JULIAN D. AMADOR,
director, Environmental Management Bureau,
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

First Filipino bishop in Mongolia

I READ last week the front-page article in the INQUIRER regarding the first Filipino bishop of Mongolia, Wenceslao Padilla. I am very happy that there was a report on this because I believe that this achievement should make us proud of our countryman's singular distinction as a Filipino.

I noticed though that while the article mentioned different affiliations of the new bishop, there was no mention that the bishop is from the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM). I expected that the writer would identify Bishop Padilla also as a member and confrere of the CICM.

I personally feel that his ordination and installation as the first Filipino bishop of Mongolia show that the CICM is a congregation dedicated to witnessing to peoples in lands where we, the CICM missionaries, are sent even to the point of even becoming pioneers in the most challenging places on earth. This also proves that the CICM is indeed an institute which is willing to transcend barriers and cultures for the sake of the missions and the evangelization of peoples.

The appointment of Bishop Padilla is an important event for us of the CICM, particularly in these times when our congregation itself is tested by matters regarding our own fidelity and love for our institute.

—BRO. JOHN P. MALLARE, CICM,
CICM-ARFC 16, 11th St.,
New Manila, Quezon City

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Across the NATION

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GMA loses court fight over quarry

By Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial government of Pampanga has retained its control over the multimillion-peso quarry industry.

This developed as the administration of Gov. Manuel Lapid won the first round in the court dispute over the constitutionality of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order 224, which designated the Mines and Geosciences Bureau as head of the provincial quarry task force.

The implementation of that order was stopped when Judge Serafin David of the regional trial court here issued a writ of preliminary injunction to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

EO 224, issued in July amid reports of irregularities in quarry operations and collections, sought to "rationalize the extraction and disposition of sand and gravel and other resources in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales."

David's writ noted the assertion of the provincial government of its right to exercise local autonomy under the 1991 Local Government Code.

It was the same code that Lapid invoked after former President Joseph Estrada placed the management of the industry and the collection of quarry taxes under the DENR's Natural Resources Development Corp. in January 1999.

"... the existing right of the petitioner (provincial government) appears to have been threatened by the implementation of EO 224. (It will) thereby . . . cause irreparable injury, if not enjoined, as alleged by herein petitioner," the judge wrote. It was also David who issued a 20-day temporary restraining order in August.

Former provincial treasurer Jovito Sabado reported that almost P24 million in quarry revenues was collected a year after the provincial government regained control of the industry in December 2001. There were no immediate available figures on monthly collections.

Barangay leaders had, however, complained of delayed remittances in shares that comprised 40 percent of the P300 tax levied for every truck of sand hauled out of Pampanga.

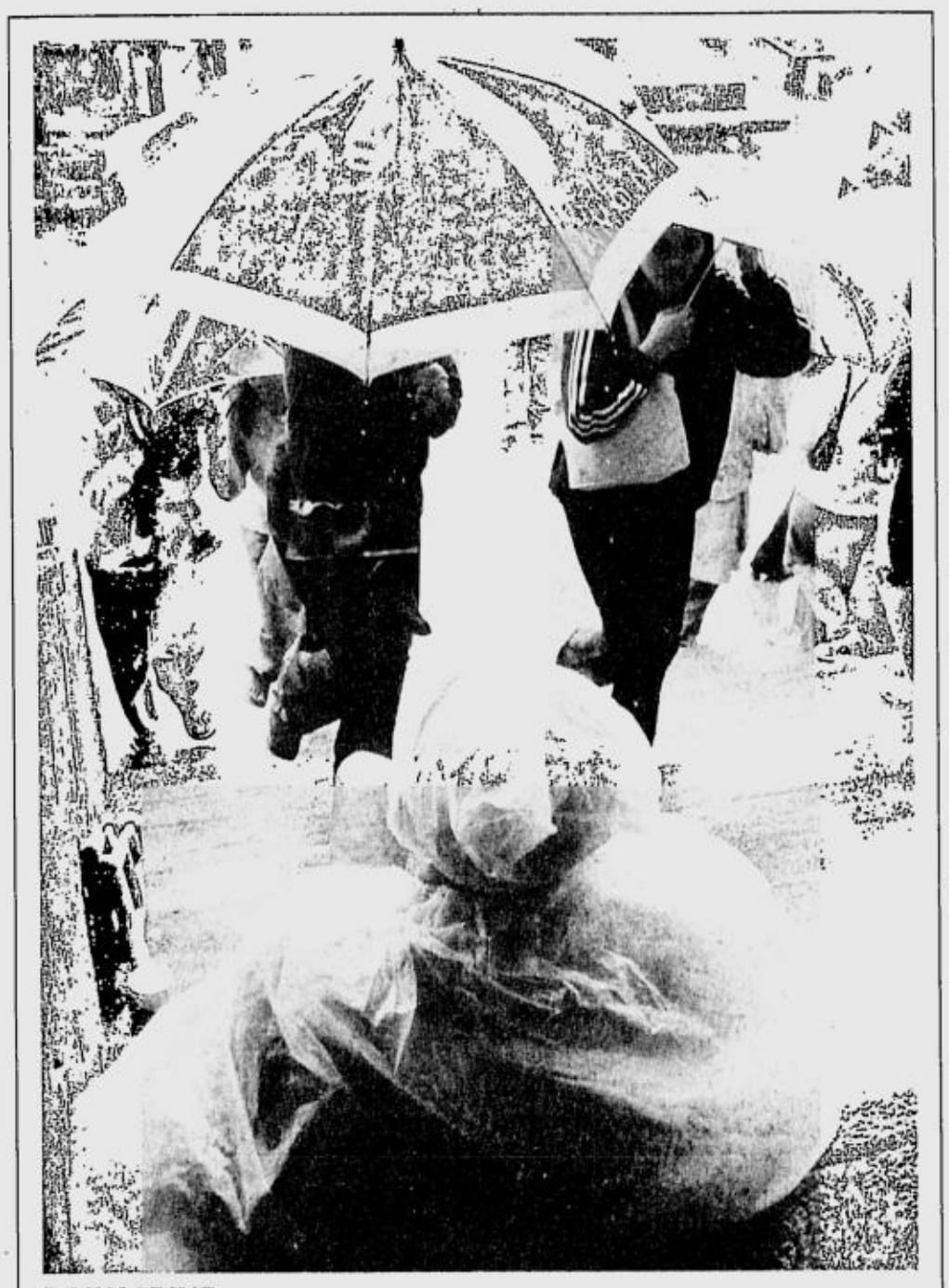
The provincial board has looked into alleged collection anomalies since June but has not announced the findings of its investigation.

In the writ, David clarified, however, that the issue on whether EO 224 was constitutional or not is still pending.

The provincial government posted an injunction bond of P400,000 on Sept. 1, provincial legal officer Filmer Abrajano said.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun earlier clarified that the supervision and collection tasks rested "primarily on the provincial government" even as the scheme was for a joint management.

Last month, the DENR and the MGB had completed the draft of EO 224's implementing rules and regulations.



DAILY GRIND TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Beggars have become fixtures in the streets of Baguio City. This beggar keeps his spot on a sidewalk along Magsaysay Avenue in Baguio despite monsoon rains.

1 dead, 3 missing as boat capsizes

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A resort owner died while her husband and two others remained missing on Wednesday night when the motorboat they were riding in capsized in waters off Daanbantayan town, Cebu.

Fishermen recovered the body of Chona Go Bui, 39, shortly before noon yesterday in waters off Chocolate Islet, Daanbantayan, about 128 km north of here.

Chief petty officer Joaquin Silvano of the Hagnaya Coast Guard Station, said search and rescue operations were being conducted for Chona's husband Rolando Go Bui, 45 and their helpers Romy Pacquiao, 20; and Edgar Granada, 25.

The Go Bui couple lived in Sunny Hills Village, a posh subdivision in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City, said Talamban Barangay chair Alvin Arcilla.

The couple was constructing a beach resort on Malapascua Island, Daanbantayan. The island is known as the next Boracay Island because of its pristine white beach and clear waters.

Last Wednesday, the couple and five others were on board a motorboat named Escape to transport 10 sacks of cement for the construction of Dos Bamboos Beach Resort.

The boat left the port in Barangay Maya, Daanbantayan at about 6:15 p.m. It capsized about 15 minutes later between Maya and Chocolate Islet or about 300 meters from the Maya Port after the boat was hit by strong winds.

Daanbantayan Mayor Maria Luisa Loot said the motorboat was overloaded because it only had a 5-horsepower engine and a capacity of at most four passengers.

When it capsized, Loot said the boat carried seven passengers and 10 sacks of cement. She said the boat was unregistered.

Fishermen on board MB Baby Fatima, which passed by the area, rescued three other passengers who were clinging to the sides of the overturned boat.

Survivors were identified as Ronald Ocanada, 23 and younger brother of Chona; Lilibeth Biyaya, 16; and Elmer Arabis, 15. Ocanada was the boat operator.

Number of marijuana plantations now 120, says anti-drug official

CAUAYAN CITY—There is a sharp rise in the number of cultivated marijuana plantations in the country, according to a top official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

During the regional anti-illegal drugs summit at the Isabela Hotel here on Wednesday, PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido, also interior and local government assistant secretary, said that from only nine reported in 1972, marijuana plantations now number 120.

Most of these plantations are found in the Cordillera, Cagayan Valley and Ilocos region.

In the Visayas, the plantations are mostly found in Central Visayas while in Mindanao, the sites are scattered all over the region.

Avenido said since President Macapagal-Arroyo has intensified the campaign on illegal drugs, 16,000 cases have been filed in court against 13,500 drug processors, 32 drug financiers or manufacturers, and 20 marijuana cultivators.

He said drug syndicates are losing P5 billion because of the government's anti-drug operations.

Since 2001, the PDEA has seized 868 kilograms of shabu, P3 million worth of marijuana and 2,000 ecstasy pills.

Avenido described the national drug situation as "serious and alarming" following reports that international airports, mail and parcel stations and coastlines have become entry points of illegal drugs in the country.

He said shabu has been smuggled into the country mainly through the coastlines in Northern and Central Luzon.

"In these areas, there were reported (but aborted) landings of illegal drugs and other chemicals," he said.

Recent reports also pointed to Palawan, Masbate, Sorsogon, South Cotabato as other landing sites of drug shipments, Avenido said.

He said processed shabu is also smuggled out through Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, both jump-off points of shabu smuggling to Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Last month, 13 transnational drug syndicates and 175 local drug groups have been identified. Twenty-nine of these groups are found in Metro Manila, 22 in Central Luzon and Western Mindanao, and 20 in Southern Tagalog and Central Visayas. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cult head's jail privileges bared

By Jhunnex Napallacan, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. had been enjoying special privileges until Monday night when about P360,000 in different currencies were found in his cell at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC).

Investigators said Ecleo, head of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), was allowed to sleep with a woman inside his cell Saturdays and Sundays.

This was in violation of jail rules which allowed conjugal visits only to married prisoners.

Last year, reporters caught Ecleo sleeping with his girlfriend, Sharon San Juan inside his cell. The incident resulted in the relief of Supt. Lita Quilaton, then BBRC warden.

Ecleo's cell mate Nestor Rosal told investigator Senior Jail Officer I Arnel Jaime that Sharon continued to sleep with Ecleo on Saturdays and Sundays.

Rosal said several jail guards would demand money from Ecleo. He, however, could not identify the names of the jail guards.

But Rosal said the jail guards had long allowed Ecleo to manufacture different kinds of musical instruments inside the cell.

'Lumad' await gold royalty

DAVAO CITY—*Lumad* leaders in Southern Mindanao recently drew a development plan aimed at alleviating the plight of indigenous communities in the region.

The development plan, drafted by the council of elders in the Davao provinces, would be initially funded by the P20-million royalty share that *lumad* communities were bound to receive from the gross sales of gold ores mined from Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley.

Rajah Carlito Buntas, chair of the council of elders, said they have identified at least five priority areas including infrastructure, health, training, credit facilities, and environmental programs all aimed at benefiting the Mandaya, Dababawon, Manobo and Mangguangan tribal groups.

"We were told by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that the royalty could reach P20 million," he said.

He said the money was being held in escrow by the Natural Resources and Development Corp. (NRDC) "but we can get the money anytime."

NRDC represents the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and is the one managing the indigenous communities' royalty shares from service contracts given to small mining cooperatives in the controversial Mt. Diwata, also known as Diwalwal.

In August last year, DENR closed down the mines based on the recommendation of the MGB due to pollution and violence hounding the gold-rush area.

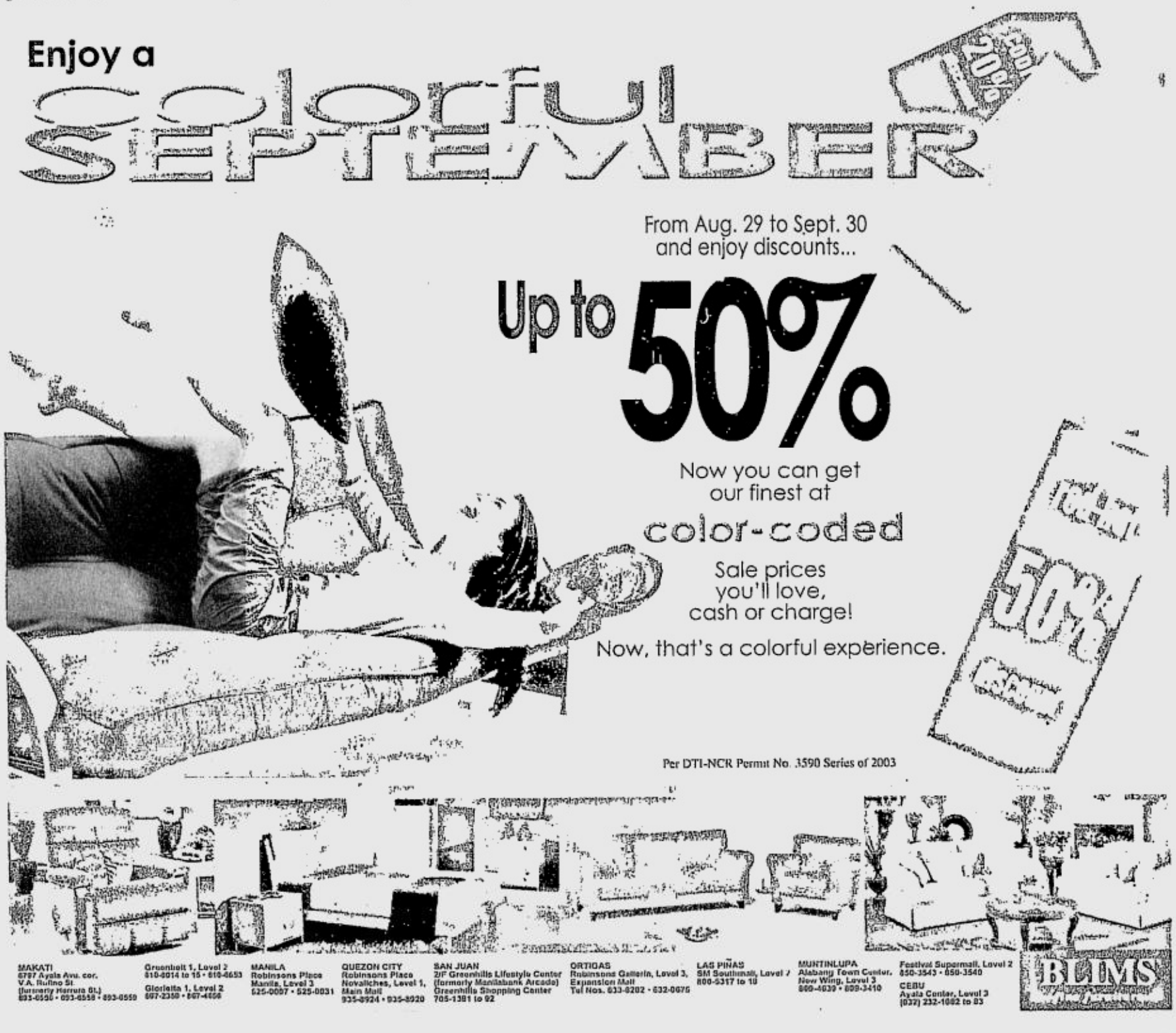
Two weeks after the order, the DENR reopened the mining tunnels through the issuance of service contracts to small-scale miners.

Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez signed 18 service contracts to miners' groups and cooperatives under the Diwalwal State Development Project.

The miners get 85 percent of the proceeds of their production while the government gets 15 percent. One percent goes to indigenous communities. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUTINE AFP

Checkpoints have become common sight in remote areas of the country, especially in places where rebels are most active. In Claveria, motorcycle riding men are not spared from the checkpoints.



Wrong perception causing decline of egg industry

By Carmela Reyes, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BALIUAG, Bulacan—The egg industry is shrinking because Filipinos are no longer egg lovers and wrongly perceive that eggs cause their cholesterol to shoot up, according to the National Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines (NFEPP) Inc. or the Egg Board.

Egg Board president Gregorio San Diego Jr., also assistant vice president for operations of Rizal Poultry, said a Filipino consumes 50 to 55 eggs a year only. This is very low compared with the Chinese who consume 300 eggs each a year.

Japanese consume more than 200 eggs each a year while Americans eat two eggs each every morning.

Egg Board officials said the egg industry now also suffers because of the wrong perception among Filipinos that eggs cause cholesterol levels to shoot up.

Egg Board secretary general Arthur Baron said the 16 million eggs produced daily in the country are sufficient to feed 70 million Filipinos.

But he said most Filipinos now avoid eating eggs for fear that their cholesterol level would shoot up.

"Filipinos today seem to forget the miracles of the eggs," Baron said. "Our grandfathers have taught us that *sarsaparilla* (fresh egg mixed with a cola or soft drinks) are a good energy-giving food and that boiled eggs are good for snacks or breakfast."

To revive the "miracle food" called egg in the consciousness of Filipinos, the Egg Board will hold its 3rd Philippine Egg Show on Sept. 19-21 at the Megatrade Halls 2 and 3 of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

With the theme "Eat a Miracle Everyday," the three-day event aims to present eggs not only as a rich and healthy "miracle food" but cheap and affordable as well.

Among the highlights of the show are cooking demonstrations, unveiling of the world's largest omelet, and an egg museum, which will feature quail, chicken, duck and ostrich eggs.

Egg Board officials will also conduct seminars and discussions on the high cost of the importation of products needed in their farms.

The Central Luzon provinces of Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga and Rizal are the major sources of chicken, quail, and duck eggs.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 487 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Bush here for only 8 hours

From page A1

guarantee the complete safety of the US president."

Whether long or short

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon pointed out in a briefing at the Palace yesterday that Bush was scheduled to visit six countries in six days to explain the US president's abbreviated visit here.

From Thailand, Bush will go to Indonesia and Australia.

"Bush will stay for a good, work day," Gordon said.

"The visit will be significant, not necessarily because it is long or short, but by how much the relationship and the bonds of friendship are strengthened," Ople said in a statement.

"It will be reassuring for Philippine national security and for the economic development of the country as the US remains to be our No. 1 trading partner and source of investment," he added.

Ople said that Bush would spend more time here than in Thailand, Indonesia and Australia which he will visit for only three hours each.

Agenda

"I also understand that it is not likely that President Bush can be away from Washington for any significant amount of time. This of course means that Mr. Bush's time in Asia will be at a premium," Ople said.

"The fight against terrorism will occupy the major part of the agenda, and then of course the US aid for peace and development will be a conspicuous concern in the agenda," Ople told reporters.

"There will be some agreements that will be signed, and there is a major agreement concerning US aid. This will have particular relevance to peace and development in Mindanao," Ople said.

High gear

"Substantive and administrative preparations for the visit are in high gear," he said.

An advance party has arrived in the Philippines to set the stage for the visit next month, foreign department officials said.

The team is "looking into locations on-site, (for) security purposes," said Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Julia Heidemann in a radio interview.

During Ms Macapagal's state visit to Washington on May 19, Bush announced that he accepted her invitation to the Philippines.

But there had been persistent reports that Bush's visit would be very brief due to concerns over security in the Philippines where there have been attacks by local and foreign Muslim militants.

The Philippines' security problems were highlighted in July when Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a confessed Jemaah Islamiyah bomber, escaped from a jail of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame. *With reports from AP and AFP*

Solon's split . . .

From page A1

aison officer, Secretary Jose Ma. Rufino, called for party sanctions against Gunigundo, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and other party members for fanning the money laundering controversy involving Arroyo.

Rufino strongly denied that Lakas members think the First Gentleman was guilty of the charges raised by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, saying the "vast majority" stood squarely behind the President and her husband.

He also said that instead of losing support, Ms Macapagal had actually won more support after Lacson made his sensational but unsubstantiated charges.

Albano noted that Arroyo, a lawyer, has expressed his readiness to face his accusers before the appropriate courts and that Lakas, which is co-chaired by the President and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., was confident that the allegations against him had no basis in fact and law.

"The party is not affected because there has been no evidence presented against Attorney Arroyo," Albano said.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong) said Gunigundo had no basis for claiming that the ruling party was affected by the Jose Pidal controversy.

"The First Gentleman has already said that if his accusers have the evidence, then he'll just see them in court," Gonzales said.

Sanctions for Guingona

Rufino, also the national executive director of Lakas, said the party should impose sanctions on Guingona for a controversial warning the Vice President made on national television.

Rufino said the issue should be taken up when the party leadership meets late this month or next.

"I believe there should be discipline within the party. We don't care who they are (who should be sanctioned)," Rufino said.

Guingona, Lakas president, had said that unless the Pidal controversy was settled, it could result in something "drastic" in one or two months. He also urged the First Gentleman to "tell the truth" about the Pidal accounts.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Guingona's opinion was "not shared by many."

But Rufino was less restrained in his criticism of Guingona.

Resign

"That was irresponsible of him. He's presumptuous. I expected him to be a statesman," Rufino said in a mix of English and Filipino.

He said Guingona should resign from the party if he couldn't be a team player.

"It might be better for him to consider other options. If you don't like your clothes, you should change them," Rufino said.

He noted reports that some groups behind the destabilization plot against Ms Macapagal plan to install Guingona in Malacañang if they succeed.

"He denied it but I don't know. He makes it appear like this administration is going down," Rufino said.

Rufino said Gunigundo should also be sanctioned for making a "below the skirt" proposal for the First Couple to separate to spare her from the scandal.

"Gunigundo wanted to land in newspaper (headlines), *nasaktan tuloy ang mag-asawa* (but the couple ended up being hurt). Even the opposition did not agree with his proposal," he said.

Rufino denied an INQUIRER report that members of the party seemed to think Arroyo was guilty of the charges made by Lacson.

"The party is fully behind the President, except for a few who are using this for their own agenda," he said, citing Guingona and Gunigundo whom he said wants to run for mayor of Valenzuela.

Mandela reference

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) joined the fray, calling Gunigundo's reference to South Africa's Nelson Mandela, who divorced his wife Winnie, as "totally off-tangent."

"Winnie Mandela committed adultery by having an affair with another man while her husband was languishing in jail and she was also found guilty of a crime for which she was later sentenced," Gonzalez said.

Digging deeper into the Mandela story, Gonzalez said that Mandela himself went on to have an affair with Gracia Machel of Mozambique after his release from jail and eventually became South Africa's president.

"To compare the Arroyos to the Mandelas is inventing fiction," Gonzalez said.

Bad taste

Other non-Lakas congressmen also weighed in.

Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. (PDP-Laban, Makati) said that matters like legal separation for couples shouldn't be discussed or suggested through media.

"It was bad taste," Locsin said.

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan) said that the First Couple "can invoke their right to privacy on this matter."

"Legislators have no business peeping into the private lives of the First Couple," Mitra said. "They should be left in peace."

Rep. Monico Puentevella (Lakas, Bacolod City) said that Gunigundo or anyone else had no business to "intrude into the private affairs of other people."

"Absurd, highly irresponsible," Puentevella described the Gunigundo proposal.

Private lives

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said that while Gunigundo might have meant well, the latter could not meddle in the primarily private affair of the First Couple.

"The President and the First Gentlemen have their private lives to keep and protect," Nograles said.

Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said: "There must be now a demarcation between politics and personal attacks."

Through it all, the lawmaker who whipped up the storm remained defiant.

Ignoring calls for him to resign from Lakas, Gunigundo yesterday warned that unless the President made a clean break from the Jose Pidal controversy, the scandal could break not just the party but also her chances of winning in the 2004 elections.

"The President must think things over and do the politically right thing," Gunigundo told reporters. *With a report from Cynthia Balana*

Mike A to join GMA in trip to US, Europe

From page A1

Panfilo Lacson in the Senate ethics committee for the Jose Pidal exposés.

In two privilege speeches, Lacson alleged that Arroyo laundered money in several bank accounts, and he had an affair with his accountant, Victoria Toh.

Arroyo said: "I am filing a case against him in the ethics committee because he has used the power of parliamentary immunity of the Senate unfairly and maliciously. No evidence, no substantiated charge, no court case, only gossip and malicious lies."

Undying love

Bunye noted that during her breakfast meeting with Malacañang officials yesterday, Ms Macapagal did not see the need to make any comment on the First Gentleman's profession of his undying love for his wife, which was given prominence by media.

Arroyo was forced to come out in public to defend his 35-year marriage after Lakas Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo suggested that the President separate from her husband to protect her administration and her image from Lacson's accusations.

The First Couple was last seen in public together on Aug. 28, during Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao's birthday party.

False accusations

In his Rotary speech, Arroyo pointed out that in the past, Congress had censured one of its members for making false accusations. "Once upon a time, the Senate suspended a senator for the rest of his term because he made charges he could not substantiate."

He was actually referring to the case of Rep. Sergio Osmeña Jr., father of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, who was suspended by the House of Representatives in 1960 for alleging, and then failing to support his accusation, that President Carlos P. Garcia had received a bribe. (The older Osmeña went on to become a senator and, in 1969, a presidential candidate).

Potshots

Arroyo also took potshots at Lacson. He described the former Philippine National Police chief as a senator "widely identified with narco-politics, facing a Supreme Court judgment" and "an adverse Senate committee report."

According to Arroyo, Lacson "sought to preempt all these by bringing about a charge of corruption in the plenary floor of the Senate of the Republic."

"But from his first speech, he was scraping the bottom of the barrel in his charges by digging up private transactions of private citizens that took place even before my wife became president. If they are private transactions by private citizens, where is the crime? Where is the corruption?"

He pointedly said that Lacson "could never dare claim that the money was obtained from criminal activities such as kidnapping, drug pushing or terrorism, the three predicate crimes covered by the Anti-Money Laundering Law. Hilariously, he (Lacson) himself characterized the funds as campaign contributions. Certainly not illegal and unlawful."

Growing old with Gloria

Arroyo again responded to a call made by Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo for the First Couple to legally separate.

"Recently, certain quarters have been calling for Gloria to separate from me. Unbelievably, our sacrament of marriage is being debated upon by people who were not even there during our courtship nor during Gloria's pregnancy with our three children. *Kung sa pagbili man lang sana ng mangga at bagoong ay kasama sila* (If they had helpedbuy green mangoes and shrimp paste before), then maybe they would have a privilege, not a right, to tell us what to do with our marriage," Arroyo said.

Husband's role

He also said that since his wife became busy with her work in the government, the task of raising their children fell on his shoulders.

"I am not inexperienced in the role of First Gentleman, as I have always been playing that role to my wife and children since the time Gloria joined the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) in 1986 ... because Gloria's public service demanded so much of her time, I was the one primarily taking care of our growing children. I took care of them in the house, I took care of them in the subdivision basketball court. I am what you call your average stage husband and father. I enjoy that role up to today..."

Arroyo also revealed that their daughter Luli was receiving "poison text messages."

As in his press conference the other day, Arroyo professed his love for the President.

"I cannot take it when I know my wife whom I love very much and who is working so hard for the country is pained unnecessarily ... I love my family and I love my wife ... I would like to grow old with my wife and my family." *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Juliet Javellana*

Vicky Toh: I feel my life is shattered

From page A1

committee. We want to make Senator Lacson accountable for his lies against me and my family," said Toh, who is on vacation in Vancouver, Canada.

Lawyer Gelacio Mamaril said his client was under medication because of the emotional stress caused by Lacson's allegations.

Mamaril said Vicky had been taking sleeping pills. "I have been advised by my doctor to rest. I cannot even leave our home as I am too distraught. So many eyes are watching us," Toh said.

Newspapers circulating in Filipino communities in Canada are carrying news about the controversy.

Mamaril said Toh was coming home to sign documents on the cases she would be filing against Lacson. "But we don't know when because there is no time frame. I just told her to rest first."

Mamaril and another lawyer, Roberto Arca, said the case they would file in the Senate committee was meant to "censure" Lacson.

"It is an act unbecoming of a senator to make accusations that are not well-documented and cannot pass scrutiny," Arca said.

Arca and Mamaril pointed out that the banks mentioned by Lacson in his privilege speech last week had presented certifications that Toh did not have any accounts with them.

The lawyers said they had received confirmation from officials of Union Bank, Banco de Oro, Philam Savings Bank, Banco Filipino and BPI Family Savings Bank "on the nonexistence of the mentioned accounts."

"He (Lacson) is fooling and misleading members of the Senate by asking the Senate to inquire into bank accounts that do not exist. Is that right for a senator?" asked Arca.

The certifications were issued by Teodoro Panganiban, Union Bank executive vice president; Nestor Tan, Banco de Oro president; Katrina Datoc, a manager for the Philam Savings Bank; and Edgardo Nacpil, Banco Filipino vice president. For the BPI Family Bank, manager Nimfa Fabular issued a certification to Emilia Pueyo, secretary of the Senate blue ribbon committee.

Lacson claimed that Jose Pidal and Vicky Toh kept accounts at Philam Savings Bank (Account No. 001101-02084-2 with P25.7 million) and Union Bank (Account No. 0073-001918-4 with P23.5 million). He said Jose Pidal also had accounts at Banco de Oro (Account No. 00218008731 with P19,531,000), Banco Filipino (Account No. 11043-00684-2 with P16.3 million) and BPI Family Savings (Account No. 6615-00497-7 with P25.3 million).

Mamaril said the banks issued the certifications after Toh waived her rights under the Bank Secrecy Law.

The lawyers also said Lacson was "intruding into the privacy" of their client by alleging that Vicky Toh was having an affair with Arroyo.

The lawyers said they were also poised to file libel and civil cases against Lacson.

Asked if the Senate would close ranks on a colleague, the lawyers said there were "instances in the past" when the Senate censured a comrade. "Our case is strong," Arca said.

Cops eye Kuratong in airport executive's murder

From page A1

digging into information that the contract to kill Diaz went to one of the 12 subgroups left of the Kuratong Baleleng syndicate, which, he said, were active again in various criminal activities including assassination.

"We are also looking closely at the Saber angle," he said, referring to the Saber Development Foundation Inc. that was awarded a questionable porter service contract by then Manila International Airport Authority general manager Antonio Gana during the term of President Joseph Estrada.

The possibility of Diaz's killer being a member of the Kuratong Baleleng surfaced from information provided by Danilo Francisco, a member of the subgroup that recently robbed a Union Bank branch in Parañaque City and who has since surrendered to the NBI, Wycoco said in a phone interview.

He quoted Francisco as telling NBI agents that the sketch of Diaz's assailant closely resembled one of his cohorts in the Kuratong Baleleng.

"The face is very, very familiar," Francisco reportedly said when shown the sketch fashioned by investigators from an eyewitness' account.

Wycoco said members of the Kuratong Baleleng subgroups had been shuttling from Mindanao to Metro Manila and were now again engaged in kidnapping and bank robbery.

He said authorities were checking whether politicians were involved in the syndicate's operations "because it is really intriguing" why the Kuratong Baleleng "becomes more active before elections."

"But they are also offering gun-for-hire services," he said, adding that the syndicate could have been given the contract to kill Diaz, 47, MIAA assistant general manager for finance and administration.

Diaz was shot dead on her way to work Tuesday in Parañaque.

Days earlier, documents detailing irregularities in the Saber porter service contract were leaked from her office and received by the INQUIRER.

The documents showed that with a capitalization of only P50,000, Saber earned P446 million in untaxed revenues from arriving and departing passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 1 and 2.

Estrada has denied involvement in Saber operations and accused MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda of spreading reports on the foundation to divert public attention from the "Jose Pidal" controversy involving President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband.

'Stop speculations'

At the Palace, Ms Macapagal called for an end to speculations on Diaz's murder, saying all the loose talk would "just muddle" the investigation.

"Let us allow the authorities to do their job to unravel the motive and suspects behind this heinous crime," she said in a statement, adding that the Philippine National Police had been ordered to get "cracking" on the case.

Senior Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, earlier said among those to be invited for questioning were Naia employees whom Diaz had transferred to other jobs as part of her anticorruption drive, and officials of an airport contractor, Olongapo Maintenance Service Inc. (OMSI), which had filed a graft case against the murdered woman.

In a statement, OMSI vice president and general manager Albert San Gabriel said he and his company "condemn the senseless and barbaric act perpetrated" on Diaz.

"For the record, neither I nor any member of our organization had anything to do with such act of cowardice," he said.

He offered OMSI's "sincerest sympathies and condolences" to Diaz's family and expressed the hope that "the perpetrators of the crime [would] be immediately apprehended and forthwith brought to justice in order to answer for their wrongdoing, all in the spirit of the rule of law."

San Gabriel described his company as "a legitimate business organization which has been providing maintenance services for the MIAA for many years now."

He said that as a "firm believer in the rule of law," the OMSI had brought its "differences" with Diaz before the courts.

In fact, he said, the Pasay City Metropolitan Trial Court ruled in July in favor of the OMSI in a criminal case against Diaz for violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officers.

Estilles yesterday said an OMSI official would meet with Parañaque police investigators today. He said the official was "willing to give information."

Diversionary tactics

Estrada is taking offense at supposed efforts to link him to Saber's operations.

He expressed surprise over the attention given to the alleged irregularities involving the foundation, and pointed out that the government was turning a blind eye on controversies involving top administration officials.

"These are fabricated charges. Why don't they go after charges that are backed by voluminous documents?" he said, and cited the alleged $2-million extortion case involving former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the "Peace Bonds" controversy involving the sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, and the supposedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue.

Estrada reiterated that he knew nothing about the foundation supposedly put up for his charity projects, including the funding of scholarships for Muslims, and said he did not know Diaz either.

But he said he had heard that Diaz was "very close" to Manda, and that as supposed finance officer of the Lualhati Foundation, she knew "a lot about the foundation and Manda."

Estrada said he had also been hearing reports that before she was ambushed and killed, Diaz was resisting efforts by Manda to ease her out of the MIAA.

Manda himself said he was bent on pursuing charges against the people behind Saber.

He denied that he was trying to divert public attention from the Jose Pidal controversy, and said: "I was just asked by reporters about the issue [of Saber]. They have their way of knowing things, particularly irregularities." *With reports from Armand Nocum, Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa*

'Public interest higher than right to privacy'

From page A1

But Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. (PDP-Laban, Makati) said the Senate has lost jurisdiction over Ignacio and the latter could not be compelled to appear again before the Senate hearing on the Jose Pidal bank accounts.

Uncooperative

Ignacio, who claimed he was Jose Pidal, was uncooperative during the joint committee hearings at the Senate.

Ignacio had invoked his right to privacy in refusing to answer questions about his finances, prompting members of the Senate to call for a closed-door meeting on Sept. 15 to decide whether he could be compelled to speak about the Jose Pidal accounts.

"After Ignacio Arroyo said 'I am a private citizen and I owned the Jose Pidal accounts,' the Senate lost jurisdiction over him," Locsin said.

A Harvard-trained lawyer, Locsin said that based on jurisprudence, there was a limit to the congressional power to pry into the affairs of private citizens on at least two grounds.

One, there are no allegations of a crime committed by the Arroyo brothers because no cases have been filed against them in court. Campaign contributions are not considered dirty money under the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Amla).

Presidential political liaison officer Jose Ma. Rufino said he gave P2 million to Ms Macapagal's campaign but he saw nothing wrong if excess contributions were kept by the First Couple.

"So what if there's an excess? The opposition has no business meddling with that," Rufino said in Filipino.

Second, there is no clear intent to put out legislation because the Amla is already in effect.

"The Senate can insist and Iggy can resist," Locsin said.

Locsin said Ignacio may be held in contempt by senators "but he can always run to the Supreme Court."

Locsin said there was even an "element of estoppel" on the part of the senators because they opposed proposed amendments to the Amla that would have relaxed banking secrecy rules.

Boxed in

Senator Arroyo made the same point. "We had the golden opportunity to pry open bank deposits but we didn't. We even tightened the law," he said in a phone interview.

This was because lawmakers in the bicameral conference committee had insisted that a court order be required before banks could be made to open accounts to scrutiny in order to protect the opposition from being harassed by the administration.

"We boxed ourselves in," Senator Arroyo said. Last February, 12 senators had voted to require a court order before a bank account could be opened. Eight senators opposed this.

Now, the senators are "facing a blank wall" despite the two hearings they conducted on allegations that the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo had laundered at least P260 million in campaign contributions to his wife, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon said the burden of providing evidence against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was now on his accuser, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"It's now back to him," Drilon said of Lacson in a phone interview.

This is because the banks where Arroyo allegedly maintained secret accounts, including those under the name of Jose Pidal, would not cooperate with the three Senate committees looking into Lacson's allegations last week.

Secrecy law

The banks insisted they could not disclose information on the accounts because of the Bank Secrecy Law.

At a news conference, Drilon said the three Senate committees did their share of trying to pry information from the banks and from Ignacio himself during the two public hearings.

Drilon said it was important for Lacson to show proof that the funds in the bank accounts were public monies. He noted that the only public money that Lacson had alleged to have found its way into a Jose Pidal account was the P1.35-million "donation" from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Drilon said Lacson had also alleged that the Jose Pidal and other dummy bank accounts held contributions to Ms Macapagal's vice presidential campaign in 1998 but the opposition senator has not come up with any proof.

Campaign contributions are considered private funds because the country has no law that regulates donations, according to the Senate president.

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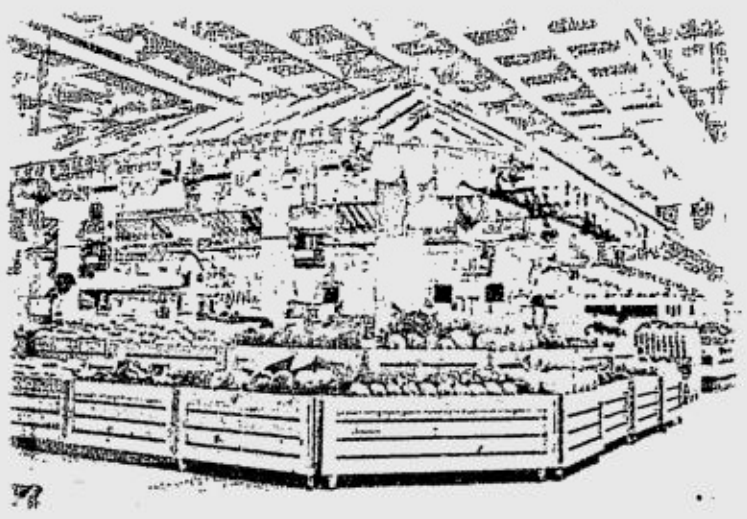

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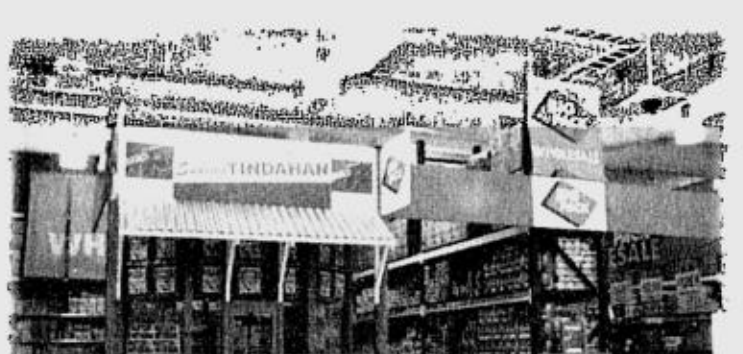

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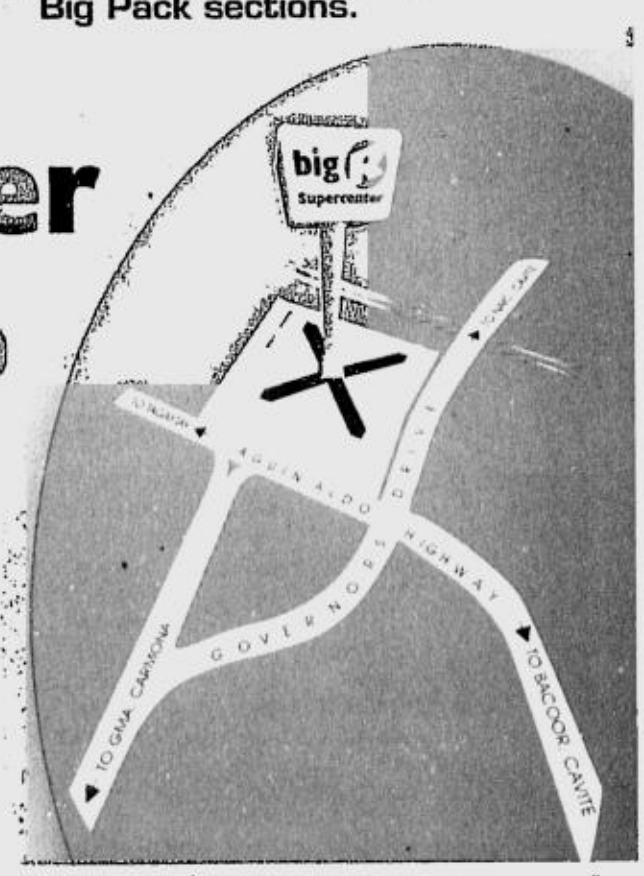

Kris, yes ...

From page A1

public information who conducted the hearing on irresponsible broadcasters and broadcasting cleared former President Corazon Aquino's youngest child of wrongdoing after viewing a tape of the show in question, the July 31 episode of "Morning Girls."

In that episode, Kris commented that a congressman was disrespectful to the military led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya during a hearing on the July 27 mutiny conducted by the House committee on national defense.

Kris did not name the lawmaker, but she was referring to Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, who told Abaya to resign if he could not contain coup threats against the administration.

But Kris' co-host, Korina Sanchez, was not let off easy. Committee members said she should not be allowed to get away with what she said, especially since she snubbed the hearing for the third time.

A representative of ABS-CBN network said Sanchez was not able to show up because she had a previous engagement.

In the episode in question, Sanchez referred to Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez thus: "*Alam mo ikaw, bastos ka, hindi ka dapat* congresswoman."

Martinez subsequently delivered a privilege speech asking Congress to set the parameters for responsible broadcasting and define the extent of responsibility on disciplinary action as far as the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas was concerned.

The lawmaker also said Sanchez might have wanted to be giddy and girlish with what she said, but that Sanchez did not have the privilege to destroy a person.

At the hearing, Martinez said she would file a case in a Cebu court against Sanchez.

She said she was still considering what charges to slap on the news reader, purportedly to make sure that the latter would learn a lesson in basic courtesy.

Karen Davila, another news reader from the same network, came under fire from Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez for supposedly saying on the air that congressmen were getting 30-percent commission for every pork barrel project in their districts.

Thankful

Kris thanked the lawmakers for letting her go, and said they could count on her in the 2004 elections.

She said she would never malign the legislature because most of her family members and relatives were there.

Kris also informed the committee that the hearing was a blessing in disguise because it led to a reconciliation with her brother, Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Noynoy is not a member of the committee, but he was present at the hearing and was observed smiling at his sister who was seated across from him.

Kris said that after not speaking with each other for seven years, Noynoy came to her the other night to assure her that he would stand by her and not allow her to be humiliated at the hearing.

Before she left, Kris hugged and shook hands with the committee members, including Martinez.

Noynoy described the committee members as "very professional." He admitted that he had earlier sought his colleagues' help in handling the issue.

He said he, too, was happy with the reconciliation with his sister.

But he stressed that he attended the hearing not merely to give moral support to Kris. He said he also wanted to show other lawmakers that he agreed with them that some broadcasters were abusing their license and had been hitting people, particularly public officials, below the belt.

Polite

It was Rep. Monico Fuentevella who moved that Kris be excused from the hearing, saying it was obvious that she was not the right resource person the congressmen wanted.

Fuentevella said that Kris was even polite in not naming the congressman concerned, and that he shared her sentiment that the lawmakers who attended the hearing on the mutiny were disrespectful of the military officials who were serving as resource persons.

In fact, he said, he walked out of that hearing in disgust.

Rep. Romualdo Vicencio, committee chair, said the hearing was necessary to clear the air and remind journalists of their responsibility.

Osama lauds . . .

From page A1

deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, threatened more attacks on Americans and calls on Iraqi guerrillas to "bury" US troops.

The voice identified as Bin Laden said the Sept. 11 hijackers "caused great damage to the enemy and disturbed their plans," and called them true believers who should become an ideal for other believers.

Threatening

"He who wants to learn loyalty, sincerity, magnanimity and courage in support of religion ... should follow in the footsteps of Said al-Ghamdi, Mohammad Atta, Khaled al-Mihdar, Ziad al-Jarrah and their brethren, God rest their souls," he said.

The man made no direct threatening remarks, but the voice said to be Al-Zawahri threatened more attacks on Americans.

"What you saw until now are only the first skirmishes," Al-Zawahri allegedly said in the 12-minute tape. "The true epic has not begun."

A religious song could be heard in the background of the alleged Bin Laden audiotape. Both tapes were translated from the Arabic by The Associated Press.

Whiter beard

The videotape shows Bin Laden and Al-Zawahri dressed in loose-fitting Afghan clothing and flat, rolled brim caps known as pakuls. They walk slowly up and down a rocky hill dotted with green plants.

In one shot, Bin Laden, in his late 40s and more than 1.8-meter tall, is assisted by a walking stick in his right hand and wears a blanket over his left shoulder. He shows signs of age since his last video image two years ago; his beard is whiter.

In several sections of the video, both men carry Soviet-made assault rifles.

The two climb to the hilltop and sit resting, looking out over trees and rocky outcroppings, the camera behind them. The video appeared well-planned and well-shot, likely with Bin Laden's full cooperation, as he glances over his shoulder at the camera several times.

Neither Bin Laden nor his aide spoke on the video, which appeared to be shot in one day.

The light in each segment is the same and Bin Laden's clothing is also the same. He appears to allow the cameraman time to move ahead to get a series of shots of the al-Qaida leader walking toward the camera. Several times, Bin Laden looks over his shoulder, giving the impression he is being followed. At one point he waves at the camera.

In one scene, a small cluster of wildflowers can be seen, suggesting—given the apparent high altitude at which the video was shot—that the videotape was made in early summer. At such an altitude wildflowers would not be blooming in early September.

Terror network still active

According to terrorism experts, such tapes reassure al-Qaida sympathizers that the terror network is still a force and its leaders still active and in seeming good health. A tape showing Bin Laden would be crucial to that effort and the timing highly symbolic.

Al-Jazeera said on Wednesday the tapes were produced in late April or early May, but the Arab satellite channel did not say how or when it obtained them. The backdrop in the video resembled the border regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, where US officials believe Bin Laden is hiding out.

US intelligence officials will review the tapes to try to determine if they are authentic and when and where they were made, officials in Washington said.

Messages from al-Qaida leaders are sometimes viewed as presaging an attack.

"This is another reminder that they continue to plot to attack us and to attack freedom," Sean McCormack, a spokesperson for the National Security Council, said on Wednesday. *AP, AFP*

Children at center of remembrance

From page A1

people.

At the site where the World Trade Center once stood in Manhattan, 200 children whose relatives were among the 2,792 who died there were assigned the solemn task of reading the names of the victims in a morning ceremony.

"I know I'm very proud of my children," said Lynn Morris, whose husband, Seth Allan Morris, died on Sept. 11, 2001, and whose two children, 11-year-old Madilynn and 9-year-old Kyle, read names of victims. "It's amazing the strength that they have developed over the years."

A chorus of children also sang "America the Beautiful," "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Prayer."

No letting go

In New York, some remembrances of Sept. 11 started a day early. A silent vigil was held Wednesday night at St. Paul's Chapel and continued into the early hours of Thursday morning. The chapel, once in the shadow of the trade center, survived the neighboring complex's destruction and was temporarily converted into an all-purpose relief center for rescue workers.

A handful of those who had volunteered two years ago gathered in and around the chapel. Inside, candles flickered at the front of the sanctuary and photographs of victims were spread upon the altar.

Terry Callendrillo, 44, an occupational safety and health specialist who volunteered at Ground Zero for eight months, said those who died would not be forgotten.

"We all carry them engraved in our hearts," he said outside the chapel. "Day to day, we go on about our lives, but we don't let them go."

Lifelong, all-night vigil

Other people gathered at the fence surrounding the trade center site, where more than two dozen floral arrangements had been placed. One woman, Delia Colon, prayed nearby, draped in an American flag.

"I was here last year on an all-night vigil," Colon said. "I'm here this year on an all-night vigil. As long as I have breath, I will be here on an all-night vigil."

The Ground Zero ceremony, lasting about 3 1/2 hours, fell silent at the four moments when the terror peaked two years ago: the time of impact of each plane that flew into the trade center, and the time of each tower's collapse.

In Washington, President George W. Bush stood on the South Lawn of the White House and observed at 8:46 a.m. (1246 GMT) the moment when American Airlines Flight 11 struck the trade center's north tower to begin the timed attacks.

Anniversay speech

On Wednesday at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, he reflected on Sept. 11 and outlined his program to protect the nation against future attacks in a speech that the White House regarded as his main public comments on the anniversary.

"The memories of Sept. 11 will never leave us," he said. "We will not forget the burning towers and the last phone calls and the smoke over Arlington. We will not forget the rescuers who ran toward danger and the passengers who rushed the hijackers. We will not forget the men and women who went to work on a typical day, and never came home. We will not forget the death of schoolchildren who were on a school trip."

Along with shared grief, however, Bush vowed to stay on the offensive against terrorists. "We will never forget the servants of evil who plotted the attacks. And we will never forget those who rejoiced at our grief and our mourning," he said.

Moment of attack

Memorials at other Sept. 11 sites were keyed on each place's moment of attack. A ceremony at the Pentagon included a moment of silence at 9:37 a.m. (1337 GMT) when the impact of a jetliner killed 184 people.

And in southwest Pennsylvania, rural hamlets tolled bells to mark the time when the fourth hijacked plane plunged into a field there, killing the 40 passengers and crew who were later hailed as heroes for trying to stop more catastrophe.

Elsewhere in America, there were also reminders of life, death and peace.

In Toledo, Ohio, white doves were released after the reading of victims' names. In Massachusetts and Hawaii, bells pealed to remember the dead.

Twisted steel taken from the ruins and shipped to other states for memorials was at the center of ceremonies from North Dakota to Florida to a New Mexico church that uses two trade center beams as part of its bell tower.

And in Tampa, Florida, motorcycle riders raised money for the families of police, firefighters and US Special Operations troops who have died in the war on terrorism.

The Ground Zero commemoration, similar to last year's, featured readings by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, New York Gov. George Pataki and New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey.

During the recitation of names, families of attack victims descended a ramp into the seven-story pit that was the trade center basement and placed flowers on the bedrock.

2 light beams

At sunset, two light beams pointing skyward were switched on, evoking the image of the twin towers in a reprise of a popular monthlong memorial unveiled in March 2002.

But the centerpiece of the Ground Zero remembrance was the children. Some of the 200 reading names spent the weeks leading to the anniversary practicing the pronunciations on their section of the list.

Lynn Morris looked up articles so that Madilynn and Kyle could match faces to the names. Madilynn was reading 14 names, finishing with that of her father, who was 35 and worked at Cantor Fitzgerald in the trade center.

"I thought it would be a good way to honor my dad," Madilynn said, "and to honor the other people." *AP*

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49 4 16 27 29 34 47

METRO

4 hurt in MIAA bomb drill

By Jerome Aning

TRAINING is supposed to prepare people to handle the real thing. But is there anything to prepare people to handle accidents during training?

Yesterday, four people were injured when an improvised bomb blew up during a training session for handling and disposing of explosives at the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) in Pasay City.

The blast ripped through the Audio-Visual Room at the fourth floor of the MIAA administration building at 2:40 p.m.

Many employees were later seen rushing out of both wings of the building. Some were crying. Others were in panic fearing a terrorist attack.

The explosion occurred as the world commemorated the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York.

On Wednesday, MIAA assistant general manager for finance and administration Lilia Diaz was gunned down by an assassin.

The INQUIRER gathered that PO2 Robert John Tuazon and PO2 Anthony Eusebio, both of the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (ASG), were demonstrating to 20 ASG and airport security personnel how to handle a bomb when the improvised explosive they were using went off.

Two of Tuazon's fingers were reportedly blown off, while Eusebio and MIAA employees Francisco Peñafrancia and Cecille Capabit suffered burns and shrapnel wounds.

They were brought to the San Juan de Dios Hospital for treatment.

The blast caused the AVR's ceiling to cave in. Smoke billowed from the building but there was no fire.

MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda, who was holding office near the audio-visual room, was unhurt.

A visibly exasperated Manda told reporters that he would ask the ASG led by Senior Supt. Andres Caro to explain why a real bomb was brought into the building.

Despite the incident, Manda assured travelers that they were in no danger since the blast took place far from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

GARCIA

Fiery star's rented house hit by fire

By Luige del Puerto and Marinel Cruz

FIRE GUTTED the rented bungalow of popular soap opera actress Jean Garcia in San Juan early morning yesterday.

It also engulfed the actress' Ford Expedition which was parked in the garage.

Senior Fire Officer 1 Domingo Cabog said the blaze on 40 Lincoln St. in West Greenhills started at 5:45 a.m. and lasted for more than 30 minutes.

Beth de los Reyes, Garcia's personal assistant, said the maid managed to wake everyone up before it could spread.

"She is doing okay," De los Reyes said of Garcia. "It's good that the maid saw the fire before it could do much damage."

De los Reyes said the actress and her two children, Jenica and Kotaro, were unhurt and were temporarily taken in by neighbors Fernando Poe Jr. and Susan Roces.

Garcia and her children are making arrangements to move in with relatives.

Garcia is known for her sinister character, Madame Claudia Buenavista, in the now defunct soap series "Pangako Sa 'Yo" and as Lady Morgana in "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay" both on ABS-CBN.

She also played Maritess, an idealistic mother of two, in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Noon at Ngayon" for Star Cinema.

Fire investigators placed the damages to the house and the car at P7 million.

Long wait pays big for Cavite bank robbers

PATIENCE pays.

This proved true for at least eight armed suspects whose perseverance was rewarded yesterday afternoon with P1.5 million from a Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI) branch in Cavite.

According to Cavite Police Director Roberto Rosales, the suspects waited for hours outside the BPI on Barangay Molino Uno, Bacoor, before making their move.

At about 3:30 p.m., a teller and two security guards emerged from the bank to bring a black bag to a waiting armored van.

They were unaware that a woman and two men waiting in line at the bank's automated teller machine were waiting for them.

Three more men stood near the armored van and acted as backup.

"As the bank teller and guards stepped out of the bank, just five steps from the door, the suspects quickly walked toward them," Rosales told the INQUIRER.

Coming from behind, the two men pulled out handguns which they poked at the two guards.

The suspects then quickly took the security guards' guns and the black bag which reportedly contained the money before running toward two getaway vehicles.

"It (happened) really fast," Rosales said.

Before driving away, the suspects fired several shots from an M-14 assault rifle and a .45-caliber pistol, apparently as a warning for other bank security personnel not to give chase.

The police later found the suspects' getaway vehicles, a black Toyota Revo (WMX 698) and a blue Revo GL (WLB 634) inside Gardenia Valley Homes, five kilometers from the crime scene.

Inside were proof of the suspects' patience: bottles filled with urine, which indicated that they waited a long time before striking.

Rosales said the suspects could have been staking out the bank for the entire day, waiting for the right moment to act.

Bank officials told the police that they did not regularly transport cash from that branch.

The incident was the latest in a string of robberies that began with the afternoon heist at the Citibank branch along Paseo de Roxas in Makati City. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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MOONCAKE FEAST
People crowd the shelves of a bread store in Binondo, Manila, to buy mooncakes in celebration of the Chinese Mooncake Festival. ERIK ARAZAS

Protesters offer red roses to 9/11 victims

By Leila Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo

A DOZEN red roses was what it took for militants to get a little closer to the US Embassy yesterday.

The militants, among them "Running Priest" Fr. Roberto Reyes, Sanlakas Spokesperson Wilson Fortaleza and Movement for National Democracy Spokesperson Millet Morante, laid the roses on one of the plant boxes along Roxas Boulevard—the closest the militants got to the embassy.

"This is a sign of our sympathy for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks in the US," said Reyes, parish priest of the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Project 4, Quezon City.

Reyes said that the roses were a call for "humility and learning" among the leaders, who have become insecure in the face of destabilization plots.

Reyes also lashed out at United States leaders for their response to the terrorist threat.

"You cannot run the world with arrogance," Reyes said, referring to the American leaders. "America also has to see how she has contributed to a very confusing and a very unstable world order."

Reyes joined yesterday's protest of around 80 militants from Aksyon ng Bayan (AKBAYAN), Sanlakas, and KPD, who marched toward the embassy yesterday afternoon as a prelude to the Global Day of Action Against War and Globalization mass protest tomorrow.

Some 20,000 protesters—urban poor, peasants, laborers, fisherfolk and students—are expected to converge at Mendiola and the US embassy during the whole-day protest.

Yesterday's poignant offering was in sharp contrast to the violent dispersal in Manila that marred Wednesday's rally to protest the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said that Wednesday's dispersal was carried out "for the sake of smooth traffic flow."

He said protesters who marched on Taft Avenue had held up traffic and caused many motorists to get angry.

"They totally blocked the traffic flow," said Bulaong, referring to the protesters.

He also said the WPD's policy regarding rallies has not changed.

"We maintain the no permit, no rally policy," Bulaong said. "As much as possible, we are exercising maximum tolerance."

The militants are strongly opposed to this policy. Reyes said that everyone has the right to protest.

On Wednesday, the protesters and police forces clashed, with some protesters sustaining minor injuries.

Militants had condemned the dispersal and the arrest of several protesters. *With a report from AFP*

METROBRIEFS

Youth attacked

AN UNIDENTIFIED man stabbed a 16-year-old resident of Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila at 2:40 a.m. yesterday. SPO1 Alfonso Batol said the boy had come from a videoke house and was standing on a corner of Gamban Street, Balut, Tondo, waiting for a tricycle when the suspect came up from behind and stabbed him—twice in the head and once in the back. Police said the suspect ran away after stabbing the victim. The victim is now undergoing treatment at the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center. *Leila Salaverria*

Sibling stabbing

FRANCISCO Valdez on Wednesday stabbed his sister for refusing to give him food in Pasig City. Imelda Valdez is now in critical condition at the Rizal Medical Center, police said. Imelda, who lived just across Francisco in Napico, Barangay Manggahan, has been supporting her jobless brother for some time, police said. On Wednesday, Imelda chose to feed her child first, and failed to give food to her brother. During their argument, Francisco allegedly got a 9-inch kitchen knife and stabbed his sister at least five times, police said. *Luige del Puerto*

Ace arraigned

ACTOR Ace Vergel on Wednesday pleaded not guilty to charges of illegal possession of firearms during his arraignment at the Metropolitan Trial Court branch of Judge Maria Filomena Singh-Paulete. Vergel (real name Ace York Aguilar), claimed through his legal counsel, that the five guns which National Bureau of Investigation agents seized in his house were all planted, except for the airgun which he claimed was a gift from his mother. The illegal possession charge stemmed from a rape case filed against Vergel by his former maid. The maid sought NBI assistance after the actor allegedly drugged and raped her in his Quezon City house in Sept. 1995. *Tina Santos*

Ice cream heist

BARELY an hour after he was released from jail, Lizardo Tapulayan Jr., 25, yesterday went straight to a Mandaluyong City store and allegedly stole two gallons of ice cream. But Jovel Aller, a merchandiser of GEMS Supermarket on Bumatay corner Maysilo streets, saw what Tapulayan did and sent him back to jail. Police said the suspect was arrested on Sept. 7 for theft. At the station, the cans of ice cream were brought in for proper documentation. But unlike other pieces of evidence, the ice cream began to melt. So Aller decided to let everyone, including Tapulayan, eat the ice cream. *Luige del Puerto*

Manila execs hit DPWH over Avenida closure

By Tarra Quismundo

IT MAY just be an opinion, but it seemed to have caused a stir.

Members of the Manila City Council yesterday took turns in expressing their own opinions regarding the closure of a portion of Rizal Avenue.

"The opinion of the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) on legal matters is not binding," said Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna during the regular session of the city council yesterday. "Only the secretary of the DOJ (Department of Justice) can render opinion on legal matters, unless overturned by a court decision.

The DPWH, in an opinion signed by National Capital Region Director Ramon Aquino, said that the closure of a 500-meter portion of Rizal Avenue was unlawful, based on a provision from the Revised Philippine Highway Act that the use of roads for other uses was illegal.

The opinion was a reply to a complaint filed by Manila resident Tina Testa against the closure of the national road, from Carriedo Street to CM Recto Avenue.

Minority Floor Leader and 4th District Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing said that while everyone is entitled to his opinion, DPWH's opinion was "the exact opposite" of what Manileños think of the project.

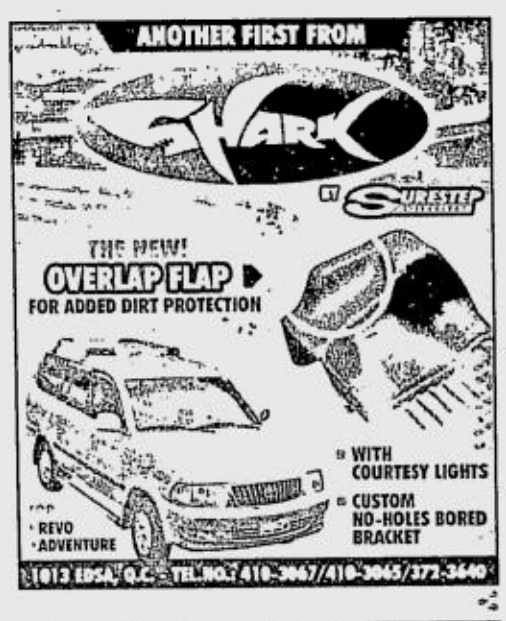
In a privilege speech, Bagatsing said that the issue is "a battle between national encroachment and local autonomy which is enshrined in the local government code."

He described the DPWH policy as "ancient and backward," adding that pedestrianization is a "battle between vehicles and pedestrians."

"The road is still there," Bagatsing said. "But instead of riding, people are now walking on Rizal Avenue. The use remains to be public in nature, and not for any man's commerce nor private-use."

The closure was part of the avenue's pedestrianization project which began in June. Manila officials hope to turn it into a shopping district by Christmas.

According to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, 60 percent of the project has been completed.



2 cops up for dismissal

THE NATIONAL Police Commission has recommended that summary dismissal proceedings be initiated against PO1 Dante Biadora of Camp Crame, Quezon City, and PO3 Froilan Cruz, jail officer of Baler Police Station, Quezon City.

SPO4 Antonio del Rosario, a member of Imus Police Station, is also under investigation for alleged extortion.

Napolcom officials said Biadora was accused of killing three people inside a billiard hall in Marikina last May 14.

Cruz has been accused of frustrated murder, for allegedly shooting and wounding a woman inside the Baler Station in Quezon City.

Del Rosario has been accused of extorting P20,000 from a Jose Sabale. *Margaux Ortiz*

Sy Kun; 92

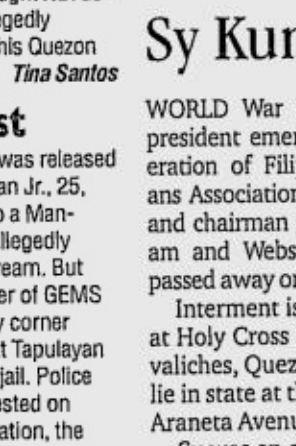
WORLD War II veteran Sy Kun, president emeritus of the Confederation of Filipino-Chinese Veterans Associations of the Philippines and chairman of the board, Merriam and Webster Bookstore, Inc., passed away on Sept. 3. He was 92.

Interment is on Sunday, 8 a.m., at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City. His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Sy was an active leader of freedom fighters and anti-Communist groups. He supported efforts to recognize the role of Chinese-Filipinos who fought since the start of the Sino-Japanese war in 1937.

Man more scared of wife than cops

AFRAID he would get a mouthful from his wife for coming home two hours after midnight, a computer technician beat the red light and did not even notice a group of SWAT men who were conducting anticarnapping operations in Marikina City.



Virgilio Parapa Jr. did not only speed past the SWAT team that flagged him down, he even hit the police checkpoint signboard.

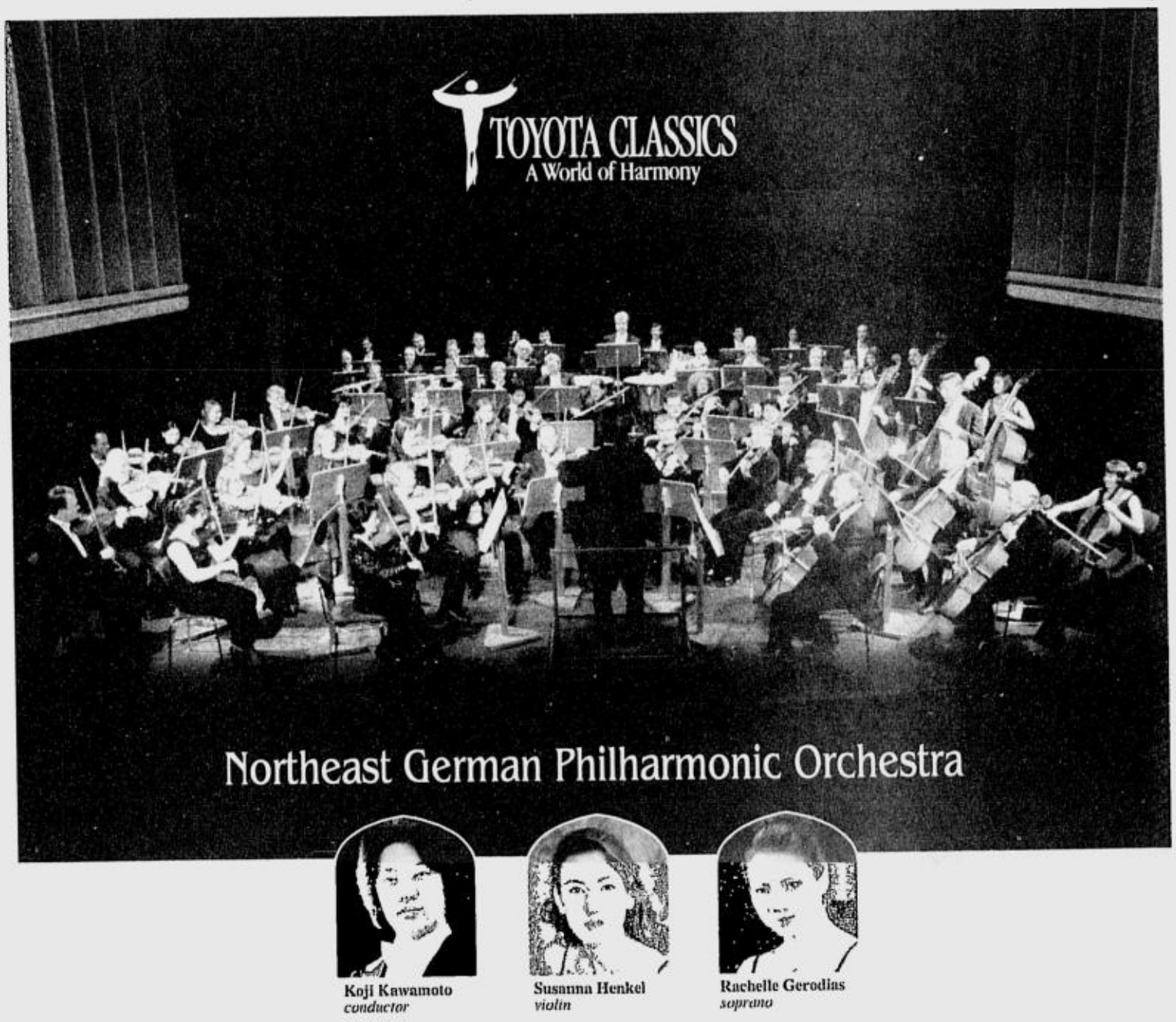
The police mistook Parapa for a car thief so they chased him and cornered him almost two kilometers away.

"I didn't notice hitting anything," Parapa said. "I did not even know (the police) were already running after me. I was just trying to get home to my wife."

Parapa admitted he was a little drunk when the incident occurred.

The police said they were stopping cars at a checkpoint on J.P. Rizal corner Korea Streets in Barangay Nangka when they saw Parapa's Toyota Corolla speed past them at high speed.

SPO1 Alfredo Bruno said Parapa's Corolla almost hit another vehicle. *Luige del Puerto*



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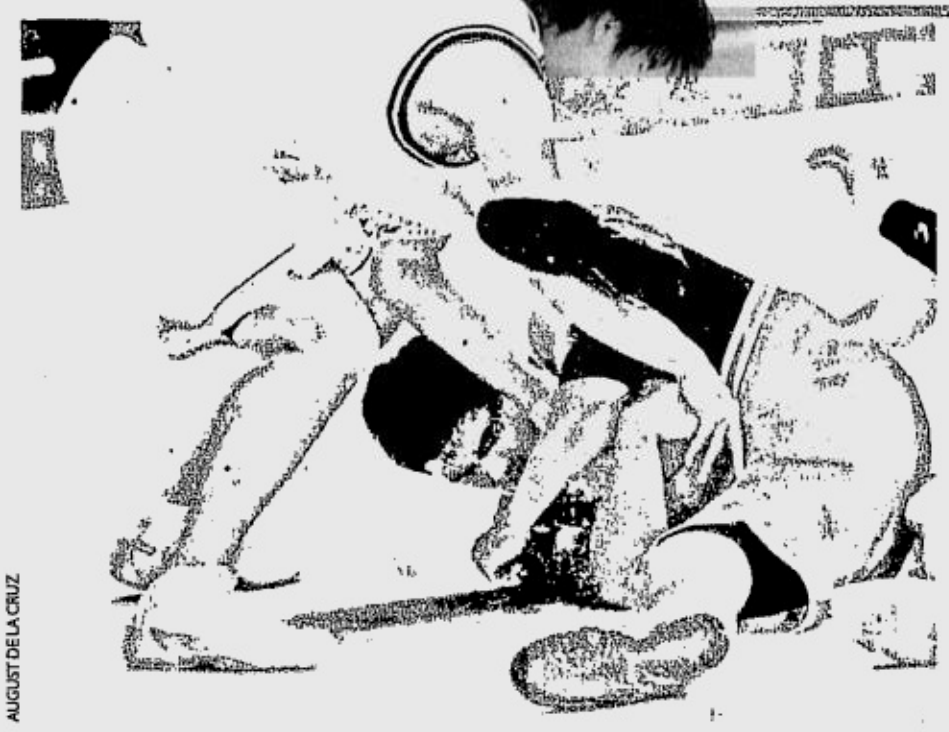

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

JAIME Raterta of Santo Tomas battles for possession with a UE Warrior.

Tamaraws, Warriors boost 'twice' bids

By Dennis U. Eroa

TITLE-HUNGRY Far Eastern drubbed Adamson, 66-53, yesterday and bolstered its bid for the twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four of the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hardly bothered by Adamson's spirited stand, FEU led all the way to tie title-holder Ateneo for the lead with its 10th win in 13 games.

"I want to stretch our team's faith and work ethics into the semis," said Koy Banal, who registered his best record since taking over as FEU coach in 2000.

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*):
2 p.m.—NU vs UP (Srs); 4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle (Srs); 6 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle-Zobel (Jrs)

Later, University of the East blasted Santo Tomas, 78-59, and remained in contention for the twice-to-beat privilege with a third-running 9-3 record.

FEU's win also enabled four-time titlist La Salle to enter the Final Four hassle-free.

The Archers are sporting a 7-5 record going into their eagerly awaited rematch with the Eagles tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

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Renato Lagura, Loay, Bohol
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Fernandez-Cezar duel up in 1-on-1 revival

CEZAR

FERNANDEZ

WITH the recent Toyota-Crispa revival proving a big success, a one-on-one grudge match between PBA greats Ramon Fernandez and Philip Cezar seems a natural sequel.

And the two agreed to relive their old rivalry as the most dominating centers in the pro league to spice up the league's King of the Hardcourt One-on-One Showdown which starts Sunday.

"It's a must-see match-up because they are arguably the two best pound-for-pound PBA players of all time," said league commissioner Noli Eala.

The one-on-one tournament will be inserted between games of the ongoing 2003 Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference eliminations.

No date has been set for the Fernandez-Cezar encounter but it is likely to be held during the finals of the PBA side event.

Cezar beat Fernandez, 22-19, during the 1979 PBA one-on-one Finals with Fernandez failing to exact revenge against his rival until the tournament was shelved after the 1982 season.

Fernandez was the last one-on-one champion in the unlimited height category after nipping Rey Lazaro, 18-15, in the Finals. In the limited height division, Willie Generalao took the crown at the expense of Frankie Lim, 13-10.

This early, highly anticipated matches—assuming they survive their elims matches—are those between Asi Taulava and Danny Ildefonso in the Commissioner's group and Willie Miller against either Marc Caguioa or Jeffrey Cariaso in the other bracket.

First round matches in the Commissioner's Division for players 6-4 and over pit Raffi Reavis (Coca-Cola) against Anthony dela Cruz (Shell) on Sunday; Davonn Harp (Red Bull) vs Jun Limpot (Ginebra) on Sept. 19; Taulava vs Don Allado (Alaska) on Sept. 26; Ildefonso vs Kerby Raymundo (Purefoods) on Sept. 28 and Yancy de Ocampo (FedEx) against Dennis Espino (Sta. Lucia) on Oct. 1.

June Navarro

FedEx Express sack Pumaren

By June Navarro

PUMAREN

THE FEDEX Express yesterday sacked head coach Derrick Pumaren and tapped its youthful consultant Bonnie Garcia to handle the two-year-old franchise in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

Pumaren lost his job because, according to team manager Lito Alvarez, Derrick's coaching ways were at times at odds with the Express' business philosophy.

"There's nothing personal about it. I just implemented the desire of the team owner. We're a fast-breaking team and there's no better way of sustaining that kind of strategy by using all of the players," said Alvarez, also the president of Air21 that owns the Express' franchise in the PBA.

"We wanted to get every player to be involved in the rotation, because when we hire people at Air21, we know that they are capable and will deliver for us. It's the same with the players," Alvarez added.

Pumaren readily accepted his fate, stressing that he had long expected the team's decision to replace him.

"It really didn't come as a surprise. I knew it was coming since I told them that I have no intention of renewing my contract next year," Pumaren told the INQUIRER.

Pumaren explained, however, that it is difficult to field all the Express players because their import Terrence Shannon is expected to play without relief.

If he opted to use the entire bench, Pumaren said the Express would be more vulnerable to losing.

Sources said Pumaren drew the ire of management when he used Vergel Meneses sparingly and benched pivotman Marvin Ortiguerra during the Express' recent setback against the Talk N Text Phone Pals.

"At least I'm responsible for molding this team for what it is right now. Other teams counted us out when we entered the league but we proved them wrong," he added.

With Pumaren at the helm, the Express captured third place during the PBA invitationals last conference, their first-ever trophy after only five conferences.

In another development, Alvarez said the Express has already released Rene "Bong" Hawkins to the Coca-Cola Tigers.

Alvarez added the terms and conditions of Hawkins' transfer would be discussed soon with Coca-Cola officials.

Hawkins will be reunited with his former Alaska teammates Johnny Abarrientos, Poch Juinio and Jeffrey Cariaso in the Tigers' fold.

Meanwhile, Jun Limpot felt visibly relieved that he's back with the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings but still insisted that he had never used a prohibited drug during his entire career.

HARVEY Carey of Talk N Text issues a pass after drawing the enemy defense during the Phone Pals' PBA game against the FedEx Express Wednesday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tamaraws, Warriors boost bids in Final 4

From page A25

Adamson kissed its semifinal bid goodbye with a 5-8 mark while UST dropped to 4-8.

Arwind Santos, last year's Rookie of the Year, exploded with another double-double performance of 17 points and 11 rebounds. He teamed up with swingman Cesar Catli as the Tamaraws took an insurmountable 61-48 bubble, two minutes remaining.

Moving the ball effortlessly, the Tamaraws shattered the Falcons' zone defense and used a strong inside game to crush the enemy.

Santos, the 6-foot-4 Catli and playmaker Dennis Mirinda combined for 23 boards as FEU outrebounded Adamson, 52-37.

Mark Abadia and Ramil Tagupa, Adamson's 1-2 punch, finished with 11 points each but the loss of rookie slotman Karl Kenneth Bono due to a sprained ankle he suffered in a losing effort against La Salle last Monday was a big blow to the Falcons.

Arnold Booker, James Yap, Paul Artadi and Olan Omiping waxed hot as the Warriors rampaged in the second half against a team already out of the Final Four race.

Over at the Adamson gym, the Ateneo Lady Eagles moved closer to a Final Four berth with a 66-52 win over Santo Tomas. Ateneo, which is chasing its first ever semis appearance in recent years, improved to 6-4.

Four-time titleholder La Salle also made a giant leap in its semis bid by stopping the nine-game winning run of Adamson, 61-54, for a 5-5 record. FEU completed the day of the underdogs when it stunned UP, 57-56, for a 3-7 slate.

The Lady Falcons (9-1) and the Lady Maroons (8-3) are already assured of Final Four seats.

Scores:

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 66—Santos 17, Catli 15, Jones 10, Sierra 8, Mirando 5, Rizada 4, Chan 2, Isip 2, Sinco 2, Razon 1, Yabut 0, Santiago 0.

ADAMSON 53—Abadia 11, Tagupa 11, Cabahug 7, Tajonera 6, Alonzo 5, Kong 4, Poloyapoy 4, Tiongco 3, Hate 2, Hugnatan 0, Catabay 0.

Quarters: 20-10, 34-23, 50-37, 66-53.

Third Game (Srs)

UE 78—Booker 21, Yap 14, Omiping 13, Artadi 11, Masbang 8, Estrada 1, Tan 3, Hubalde 2, Canaleta 2, Butel 0, Ronquillo 0.

UST 59—Espiritu 13, Villamin 10, Vizcarra 6, De Guzman 6, Asay 5, Del Rosario 5, Evangelista 4, Manansala 4, Pribdhas 4, Luanzon 2, Dizon 0, Hubalde 0.

Quarters: 17-22, 33-36, 60-46, 78-59.

Tigers eye 3rd win; SMB taps new import

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Sta. Lucia	2	0
FedEx	1	2
Alaska	0	2
San Miguel	0	2
Purefoods	0	2
Group B		
Ginebra	3	0
Coca-Cola	2	0
Talk N Text	2	1
Shell	1	1
Red Bull	1	2

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
5 p.m.—Shell vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Purefoods

COCA-COLA tries to match Ginebra's 3-0 start even as San Miguel Beer parades a new import today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

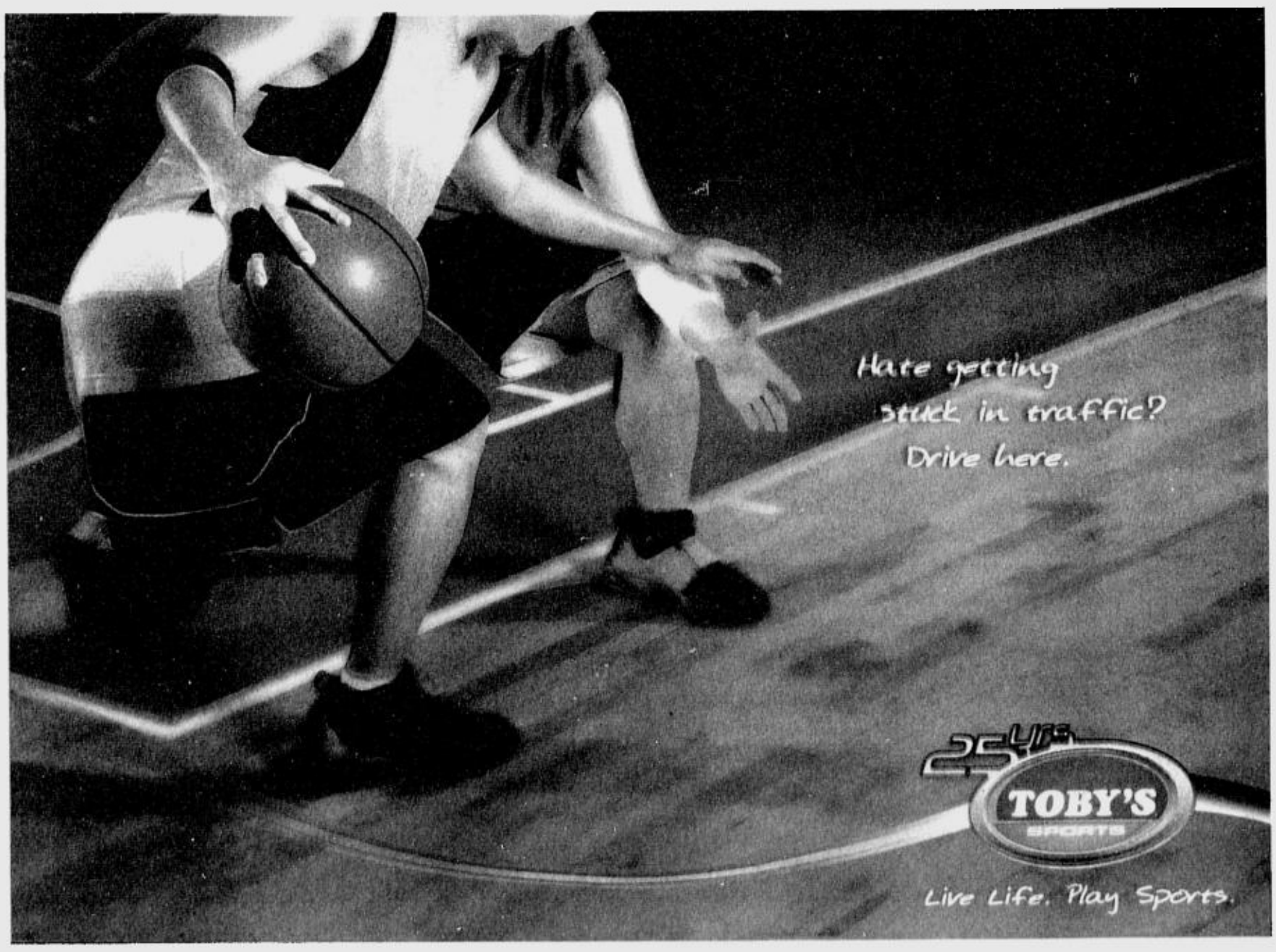
The Tigers, the losing finalists in the last two conferences, tangle with the Shell Turbochargers at 5 p.m. hoping to tie the Gin Kings for the lead in Group B.

The Beermen take the floor at 7:30 p.m. against the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs with a new reinforcement in Eric Dailey, a 33-year-old veteran of European caging who also had a brief stint with Spring Cooking Oil in 1997.

Listed as 6-6 and 230 lbs, Dailey replaces the ailing Shea Seals as the Beermen and the Hotdogs try to barge into the win-column in Group A.

Seals, who carried San Miguel Beer to a semifinal finish in the 2002 Commissioner's Cup, struggled due to an injured leg during the Beermen's 84-76 setback against the FedEx Express.

June Navarro



Pagunsan triumphs at Riviera

SILANG, Cavite—Juvic Pagunsan fired a 4-under-par 68 yesterday, overcoming a three-stroke deficit on the front nine to win the 2nd Riviera Amateur Open golf championship by seven strokes at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club here.

Pagunsan, the Southeast Asian Games gold medalist two years ago, made five birdies and had the luxury of a last-hole bogey in overhauling third-round leader and Nomura Cup teammate Marvin Dumandan.

He totaled 286 for 72 holes counting his earlier rounds of 69, 73 and 78.

Dumandan triple bogeyed the par 3 17th and finished with a 78 for 293, one stroke ahead of third placer Lee Seong Ki of South Korea, who had another 78 for 294.

Dumandan relinquished the lead when he bogeyed the eighth, fell three behind another bogey on the 10th and was virtually out of it when Pagunsan birdied the 12th to go four up.

Lee had a chance to clinch second but a triple-bogey on the 15th eventually pulled him down.

Jerome Delariarte, the back-to-back national amateur champ, never recovered from his woeful form, although his 75 put him in fourth at 302 in the event sponsored by Transnational Diversified Group, Mizuno, Pacsports, Wide Wide World Express and Handog Industrial Corp.

Danny Pizarro, president of Riviera, was also the runaway champion in the seniors division while Gerald Katigbak topped Class A.

Pizarro scored 79-82—161 for an eight-stroke win over Danny Dalija.

Another big test for Bata, Django

SEAG warm-up for Reyes. ROGER MARGALLO

THE REIGNING world pool champion and three other former titlists will tackle the country's top four cue artists led by Efren (Bata) Reyes and Francisco (Django) Bustamante in the Philippines vs Rest of the World 9-ball tournament set Oct. 28-31 in Manila.

Organizer Aristeo (Putch) Puyat said Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, who won this year's world 9-ball tournament in Cardiff, Wales, over Filipino-Canadian Alex Pagulayan, will lead the crack foreign field.

Joining Hohmann will be Americans Earl (The Pearl) Strickland and Johnny Archer and Mika Immonen of Finland.

Strickland won the 2002 world title over Bustamante. Archer is a three-time world champion, winning in 1992, 1993 and 1995. Immonen took the world crown in 2001 and won the RP-Europe 9 ball title some two months ago.

Pagulayan is also coming to join Reyes and Bustamante, with the last RP slot to be disputed in an elimination tournament among Warren Kiamco, Lee Van Cortèza, Leonardo Andam, Dennis Orcullo, Ramil Gallego, Antonio Gabica and Venancio Tanio.

"The tournament will also serve as a good warmup for Bata and Django in the coming SEA Games," said Puyat, president of Puyat Sports and chief backer of Reyes and Bustamante.

With a report from Marlon Bernardino

RP tankers in hot start, bag 9 golds

SAN PABLO City—The Philippines started its campaign in the Southeast Asia Age-Group swimming championships in a blaze of glory, winning nine gold medals in 32 events to lead the medal tally yesterday at the San Pablo Swimming Center.

Marichi Gandiongco, the country's newest pool sensation, swept all her three events yesterday, including the 400-meter freestyle which she ruled in record-breaking style.

Gandiongco, a 13-year-old freshman at Poveda, clocked 4:29.09 to erase her own national record of 4:30.69, which she set during the Southeast Asian Games tryout.

She capped her impressive feat with two more golds in the 100m fly and the 200m individual medley.

Luica Dacanay won two golds while Evan Grabador, Michael Danila, Sadeq Nehum Coquia and Lambert Guiriba each produced a gold medal.

Muaythai fighters cop silver, bronze

BAGUIO City's Brent Velasco bagged the silver medal and Bryant Bagsiyao the bronze in their respective weight classes at the recent Amateur Muaythai World Championships in Almaty City, Kazakhstan.

Velasco lost the gold by the slimmest of margins to Uzbekistan boxer Fayziev Umid after the fifth judge from Finland scored it against the Filipino.

Coach Roberto Valdez said he was satisfied with the performances of both Velasco and Bagsiyao, also from Baguio City, who lost a close bout in the semifinals of the 48-kg class.

"Brent and Bryant fought bravely," he said.

Nat'l Open caging fires off in Cebu

GAMES TODAY *(New Cebu Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Burlington-NBL vs. Qatar
6 p.m.—Chinese-Taipei vs. Jordan
8 p.m.—M. Lhuillier-Cebu vs. Air 21-RP

CEBU CITY—Big-time international basketball takes the limelight here starting today with the opening of the 2003 Trust Classic National Open Championship at the New Cebu Coliseum.

Three games pitting the Burlington-NBL All-Stars against pre-tournament favorite Qatar, Jordan against Chinese-Taipei, reigning NBL champion M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu against Air-21 Philippine team will follow the hour-long opening ceremony starting at 3.

The prestigious cagefest is hosted by Cebu, organized by the National Basketball League, sanctioned by BAP and sponsored by Trust Classic, Waterfront Hotel-Cebu City, the Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau chaired by Patrick C. Gregorio, Panasonic and Gatorade.

The single-round series also features a "slam dunk" contest tomorrow and a "3-point shootout" on Sunday.

The Qataris, who are sponsored by Ricor Mills of brothers Daniel and Andres Go, will be led by Yaseen Ismail Mahmoud, the 6-8 dunker from Doha, while the All-Stars, backed by businessman Ruddy Tan, will bank on NBL MVP Dave Bautista and Mythical Team members Robin Mendoza and Jimmy Robillos.

Bobby Parks, Jeremy Robinson, and Corey Brown will reinforce Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala against Air21, which features San Beda stars Arjun Cordero, Britt Reroma and Jerome Paterno, PCU's Nelbert Omolon and ex-MBA bet Jeff Flowers. Air21 is supported by Bert Lina and Lito Alvarez.

GenSan Milo run Sunday

RUNNERS based in the provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, and Sultan Kudarat get their last chance this Sunday to book a seat in this year's 27th National MILO Marathon.

The General Santos regional elimination race is the last qualifying race for Mindanao following earlier races in Davao City, Cagayan de Oro and Butuan.

Local organizer Vic Sai said over 6,000 runners will answer the starting gun at the city's oval plaza at 6 a.m.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. and Vice Mayor Florencia Tongson are expected to award the prizes to the top three finishers in the 20K, 5K, and 3K kiddie run.

Already seeded into the finals, to be held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Powerbar and Department of Tourism, are this year's defending national champions Eduardo Buenavista and Geraldine Sealza.

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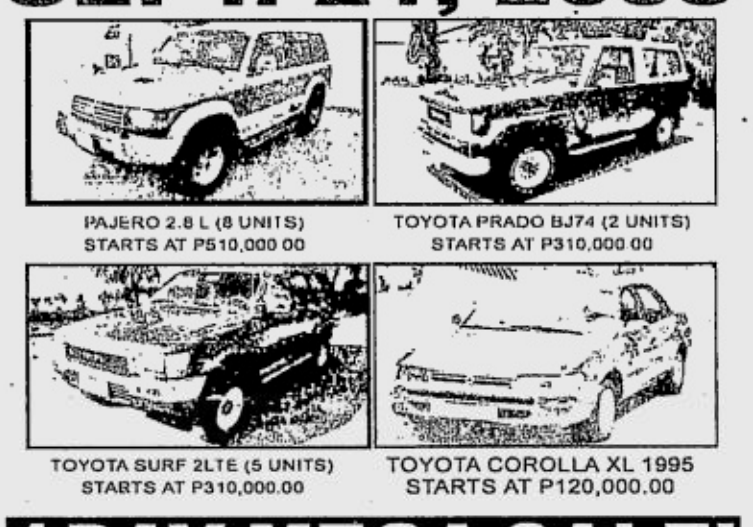
SEPT. 21, 2003



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SPORTSWATCH

Three GMs unscathed in chess simul

GRANDMASTERS Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor emerged undefeated in a sixty-board simultaneous exhibition held recently at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Faith) in Tanauan City. Each GM played 20 challengers. Antonio and Villamayor had nineteen victories and one draw each, while Torre scored eighteen wins and yielded two draws. Organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia and Faith in cooperation with the provincial government of Batangas and the Tanauan Chess Club, the event kicked off the Calabarzon Chess Circuit, a scholastic chess competition aimed at discovering future grandmasters in the region. The simul, billed as the Calabarzon Chess Challenge, also formed part of the celebration of the third founding anniversary of Faith, a world-class institution of higher learning. Saturnino G. Belen Jr., Faith president, made the ceremonial opening moves with Torre.

La Salle Greenhills golf next Friday

THE LA SALLE Greenhills Alumni Association (LSGHAA) is set to stage the 2003 All-La Salle 3rd Quarter Golf Tournament next Friday at the Wack Wack West Course in Mandaluyong City. After convincingly outgunning Ateneo to permanently retire the prestigious Ambassador Carlos Valdes Cup in the 16th La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic last May, La Salle's top guns will now gather in this golfest as part of their preparation for the 17th edition of the arch rivals' meet next year. Registration and tee-off time is from 7:30-9:30. Main host for this year's tournament, sponsored by Unionbank Visa, Campbell Soup, Taylor-Made, and Electrobus, is Homecoming Class Silverde '79 with Class '78 as co-host. The LSGHAA, through tournament chair Raymund Atendido of Class '79, is inviting all La Sallians to participate in the event. For inquiries, call the LSGHAA office at 7212729 or 7266339 and ask for Ludie or Sol.

Hermoso, Diaz rule Ultron rallycross

TEAM Blaze's Robbie Hermoso scored clocked a stunning 1.1:40 in the last heat to rule the overall and Open categories of last Sunday's Ultron Rallycross Series. Hermoso beat Jun Diaz's long-standing best time of 1.11:95. But Diaz came back to top the NRC 19 category, strengthening his chances of topping the national rallycross drivers' championship. He now ranks fourth in the driver's race, although this category is now ruled by Kenneth Dominado, who also placed third overall with a time of 1.11.97 in his Toyota Corolla. Dominado eased out current titleholder, Team Ultron's Ivan Isada, by a four-point lead. The latter, who had to nurse his Honda Civic VTEC from a rough one-kilometer track, had to settle for second place in the RP 12 class with a 1.15:01 finish.

KENNETH Dominado, on a Toyota Levin, negotiates a slippery corner during the 4th leg of the Ultron National Rallycross last Sunday.

Tuazon brothers 1-2 in Shell karting

ROSARIO, Batangas—Brothers Mike and JP Tuason pulled another 1-2 finish for Tuason Racing-Addict in the sixth leg Monday of the Formula Rotax 125 Expert class of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit. It was the second straight victory for Mike Tuason, the first Filipino to win the Asian Zone Karting championship at age 16 back in 1996, around the Batangas track. He stuck close behind Lee Bumgarner in the early going before wresting the lead in the fifth lap. He towed JP, a two-time Karter of the Year and the elder of the Tuason brothers, to the finish. Mike clocked 21:54.417, just 2.636 seconds ahead of JP. Bumgarner wound up third, just 0.088 seconds behind JP while Tim Gosnel and Marcel Thenu finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Can RP end 3As gold-medal drought?

THE PHILIPPINES' prospects of ending its 16-year gold medal drought in the Asian Athletics Association championships will be discussed in today's session of the SCOOP Sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City. Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok and members of his board have been invited to talk about the Filipinos' chances of ending the long wait, which started after former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado swept the 100 and 200 meters in the 1987 edition of the meet. Go will also discuss Patafa's preparations for hosting the biennial event, slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Ucap Firebird Stag fights begin

COCKFIGHTING buffs are assured of thrilling fights when the championship round of the Ucap Firebird 7-Stag Derby championship reels off today at the Araneta Coliseum. The event, which is being hosted by hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, is the first of four Ucap derbies to be staged at the Araneta. Emerging with three victories after Wednesday's eliminations are newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet (Greenwood Balbina Cup), Benjie Lim (Sagupaan Blue Blade I), Enriquez (Firebird), Gov. Ito Ynares and Richard Bates (Binangonan Balbina I), Dr. Ayong Lorenzo (EDI Crowsland Excellence) and Ucap president Raymond Velayo (Amis Master). Thirty-six entries saw action in the elimination round. For inquiries, call 911-3101 (loc. 8351 or 8357).

Las Piñas derby weigh-in today

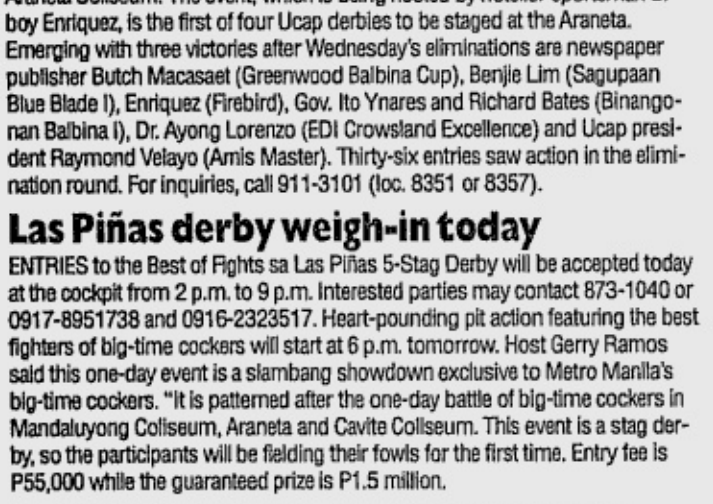
ENTRIES to the Best of Fights sa Las Piñas 5-Stag Derby will be accepted today at the cockpit from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 873-1040 or 0917-8951738 and 0916-2323517. Heart-pounding pit action featuring the best fighters of big-time cockers will start at 6 p.m. tomorrow. Host Gerry Ramos said this one-day event is a slambang showdown exclusive to Metro Manila's big-time cockers. "It is patterned after the one-day battle of big-time cockers in Mandaluyong Coliseum, Araneta and Cavite Coliseum. This event is a stag derby, so the participants will be fielding their fowls for the first time. Entry fee is P55,000 while the guaranteed prize is P1.5 million.

Sixty matches fire off Pasay cockfest

MORE than 60 matches spice up the championship battle in Pasay City Cockpit's 4-stag derby at 7 p.m. tonight. Sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten, the one-day event will be hosted by cocker-breeder Boy de Roca of Batangas. Entry fee is P10,000, while cash prize at stake is P300,000. Bannering the tough field of participants are Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar (Big Fights Sa LPC Sept. 13 entry), who recently won the Las Piñas Annual 6-Stag Derby, Tony Lasala, Pol Estrellado, Jake Macasaet, Blandy Tolentino, Ramon Mancenares, Joel Fernando of Pampanga and Capt. Emil Chua. Meanwhile, some of the country's best cockers are expected to vie in the 5-stag derby of Ramon Mancenares and Patrick Antonio on Sept. 19. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Futures age-group netfest slated

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association will hold the Futures Foundation Age-Group Championship on Sept. 13-14 and 19-21 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Deadline for submission of entry is at 12 noon today. Players may contact Loida Mallare at 525-6434 (Philta office). Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions.



NGAP secretary general Benigno Gopez congratulates the Philippine team upon their arrival at the airport for placing fifth in the Asia-Pacific golf championship held recently in Queensland, Australia. From Gopez's left, Marvin Dumandan, Jay Bayron, coach Roger Retuerto, Jerome Delariarte and Juvic Pagunsan.

PREDRAG Drobnjak from Serbia and Montenegro loses a loose ball.

Parker sparkles as France gains

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Tony Parker scored 18 points as France held off a late Russian rally to win their quarterfinal, 76-69, Wednesday at the European Basketball Championship.

France, undefeated in four games, will play Lithuania in Saturday's semifinals. Lithuania, the highest-scoring team in the tournament, beat defending champion Serbia and Montenegro, 98-82, behind a game-high 27 points by Ramunas Siskauskas.

Serbia and Montenegro badly missed its biggest star, Peja Stojakovic of the Sacramento Kings. An NBA All-Star, Stojakovic injured his left ankle in the first quarter in an elimination-round win Monday over Turkey and he watched the game from the stands at the Globe Arena.

"We were not able to find out how to play without Stojakovic," Serbia and Montenegro coach Dusko Vujosevic said.

Serbia and Montenegro trailed by only four points at 80-76 early in the last quarter after a 17-0 scoring run that began with seven unanswered points late in the third quarter and 10 straight points early in the fourth.

But they never got any closer.

Guard Arvydas Macijauskas hit a 3-pointer to give Lithuania a 83-76 lead.

Parker, who became France's first NBA champion with the San Antonio Spurs last season, was named game MVP in the first quarterfinal. Former Boston Celtics great Larry Bird presented the award to the 21-year-old guard.

"It was a good game and I'm happy that we won it," Parker said. "Our big goal now is to finally win the championships." *AP*

'Les Bleus' leads three other sides to Euro '04

LONDON—The defending champion "les Bleus" of France led the first four qualifiers into next year's European Championships on Wednesday by winning 2-0 at Slovenia.

Sweden, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic also made it to Euro 2004, the Czechs scoring a stunning 3-1 win over the Netherlands to leave the star-studded Dutch to try and qualify for the runners-up playoffs.

Goals by David Trezeguet and Olivier Dacourt maintained France's perfect record of seven wins and the team goes to Portugal full of confidence despite its inept defense of the World Cup last year.

"This was the toughest match for us so far," France coach Jacques Santini said.

Jan Koller scored a penalty and Karel Poborsky and Milan Baros netted the other goals as the Czechs outplayed the Dutch in Prague.

Rafael Van der Vaart replied with the Netherlands already 2-0 down and playing with 10 men after the 14th minute ejection of Edgar Davids for two yellow cards.

Although the Dutch can still catch the Czechs for points, they have an inferior head-to-head record having been held 1-1 at home in March.

"This squad deserved to win," Czech captain Pavel Nedved said.

FREDI Bobic of Germany celebrates a goal. REUTERS

Sweden scored a 2-0 victory over Poland in Warsaw to ensure it finished top of Group 4 with strikes by Mikael Nilsson and Olof Mellberg.

Bulgaria gained a 3-0 win at Andorra and guaranteed finishing top of Group 8 because Croatia lost 2-1 at Belgium.

World Cup runner-up Germany edged Scotland 2-1 to jump to the top of Group 5 above Iceland which was idle. Rudi Voeller's team now leads by two points with a four-point advantage over the Scots.

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Hontiveros said his assumption to the FIQ top post is a major boost for RP bowling. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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But there is still resentment in Mozambique over the huge amount of money that Mutola won.

"It's a lot of money even for me," said Mutola, a two-time Commonwealth Games champion. "But many Mozambicans respect that and respect the hard work I have put in to get so far. Most of the money will go to the Maria Mutola Fund and I will sit down and decide what kind of projects to fund and how much money is required."

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Ah, to be young. So many dreams lost.

If I am seven . . .

SPORTSWATCH

Three GMs unscathed in chess simul

GRANDMASTERS Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor emerged undefeated in a sixty-board simultaneous exhibition held recently at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Faith) in Tanauan City. Each GM played 20 challengers. Antonio and Villamayor had nineteen victories and one draw each, while Torre scored eighteen wins and yielded two draws. Organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia and Faith in cooperation with the provincial government of Batangas and the Tanauan Chess Club, the event kicked off the Calabarzon Chess Circuit, a scholastic chess competition aimed at discovering future grandmasters in the region. The simul, billed as the Calabarzon Chess Challenge, also formed part of the celebration of the third founding anniversary of Faith, a world-class institution of higher learning. Saturnino G. Belen Jr., Faith president, made the ceremonial opening moves with Torre.

La Salle Greenhills golf next Friday

THE LA SALLE Greenhills Alumni Association (LSGHAA) is set to stage the 2003 All-La Salle 3rd Quarter Golf Tournament next Friday at the Wack Wack West Course in Mandaluyong City. After convincingly outgunning Ateneo to permanently retire the prestigious Ambassador Carlos Valdes Cup in the 16th La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic last May, La Salle's top guns will now gather in this golfest as part of their preparation for the 17th edition of the arch rivals' meet next year. Registration and tee-off time is from 7:30-9:30. Main host for this year's tournament, sponsored by Unionbank Visa, Campbell Soup, Taylor-Made, and Electrobus, is Homecoming Class Silverde '79 with Class '78 as co-host. The LSGHAA, through tournament chair Raymund Atendido of Class '79, is inviting all La Sallians to participate in the event. For inquiries, call the LSGHAA office at 7212729 or 7266339 and ask for Ludie or Sol.

Hermoso, Diaz rule Ultron rallycross

TEAM Blaze's Robbie Hermoso scored clocked a stunning 1.1:40 in the last heat to rule the overall and Open categories of last Sunday's Ultron Rallycross Series. Hermoso beat Jun Diaz's long-standing best time of 1.11:95. But Diaz came back to top the NRC 19 category, strengthening his chances of topping the national rallycross drivers' championship. He now ranks fourth in the driver's race, although this category is now ruled by Kenneth Dominado, who also placed third overall with a time of 1.11.97 in his Toyota Corolla. Dominado eased out current titleholder, Team Ultron's Ivan Isada, by a four-point lead. The latter, who had to nurse his Honda Civic VTEC from a rough one-kilometer track, had to settle for second place in the RP 12 class with a 1.15:01 finish.

KENNETH Dominado, on a Toyota Levin, negotiates a slippery corner during the 4th leg of the Ultron National Rallycross last Sunday.

Tuazon brothers 1-2 in Shell karting

ROSARIO, Batangas—Brothers Mike and JP Tuason pulled another 1-2 finish for Tuason Racing-Addict in the sixth leg Monday of the Formula Rotax 125 Expert class of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit. It was the second straight victory for Mike Tuason, the first Filipino to win the Asian Zone Karting championship at age 16 back in 1996, around the Batangas track. He stuck close behind Lee Bumgarner in the early going before wresting the lead in the fifth lap. He towed JP, a two-time Karter of the Year and the elder of the Tuason brothers, to the finish. Mike clocked 21:54.417, just 2.636 seconds ahead of JP. Bumgarner wound up third, just 0.088 seconds behind JP while Tim Gosnel and Marcel Thenu finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Can RP end 3As gold-medal drought?

THE PHILIPPINES' prospects of ending its 16-year gold medal drought in the Asian Athletics Association championships will be discussed in today's session of the SCOOP Sa Kamayan at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City. Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok and members of his board have been invited to talk about the Filipinos' chances of ending the long wait, which started after former Asian sprint queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado swept the 100 and 200 meters in the 1987 edition of the meet. Go will also discuss Patafa's preparations for hosting the biennial event, slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Ucap Firebird Stag fights begin

COCKFIGHTING buffs are assured of thrilling fights when the championship round of the Ucap Firebird 7-Stag Derby championship reels off today at the Araneta Coliseum. The event, which is being hosted by hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, is the first of four Ucap derbies to be staged at the Araneta. Emerging with three victories after Wednesday's eliminations are newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet (Greenwood Balbina Cup), Benjie Lim (Sagupaan Blue Blade I), Enriquez (Firebird), Gov. Ito Ynares and Richard Bates (Binangonan Balbina I), Dr. Ayong Lorenzo (EDI Crowsland Excellence) and Ucap president Raymond Velayo (Amis Master). Thirty-six entries saw action in the elimination round. For inquiries, call 911-3101 (loc. 8351 or 8357).

Las Piñas derby weigh-in today

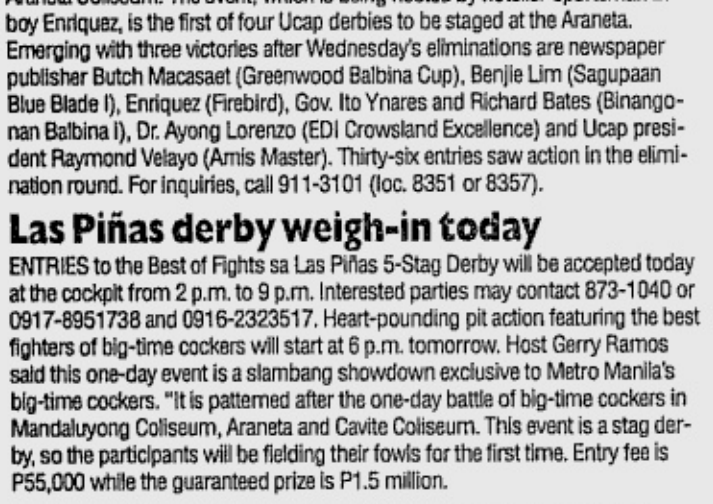
ENTRIES to the Best of Fights sa Las Piñas 5-Stag Derby will be accepted today at the cockpit from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 873-1040 or 0917-8951738 and 0916-2323517. Heart-pounding pit action featuring the best fighters of big-time cockers will start at 6 p.m. tomorrow. Host Gerry Ramos said this one-day event is a slambang showdown exclusive to Metro Manila's big-time cockers. "It is patterned after the one-day battle of big-time cockers in Mandaluyong Coliseum, Araneta and Cavite Coliseum. This event is a stag derby, so the participants will be fielding their fowls for the first time. Entry fee is P55,000 while the guaranteed prize is P1.5 million.

Sixty matches fire off Pasay cockfest

MORE than 60 matches spice up the championship battle in Pasay City Cockpit's 4-stag derby at 7 p.m. tonight. Sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten, the one-day event will be hosted by cocker-breeder Boy de Roca of Batangas. Entry fee is P10,000, while cash prize at stake is P300,000. Bannering the tough field of participants are Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar (Big Fights Sa LPC Sept. 13 entry), who recently won the Las Piñas Annual 6-Stag Derby, Tony Lasala, Pol Estrellado, Jake Macasaet, Blandy Tolentino, Ramon Mancenares, Joel Fernando of Pampanga and Capt. Emil Chua. Meanwhile, some of the country's best cockers are expected to vie in the 5-stag derby of Ramon Mancenares and Patrick Antonio on Sept. 19. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Futures age-group netfest slated

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association will hold the Futures Foundation Age-Group Championship on Sept. 13-14 and 19-21 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Deadline for submission of entry is at 12 noon today. Players may contact Loida Mallare at 525-6434 (Philta office). Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions.



NGAP secretary general Benigno Gopez congratulates the Philippine team upon their arrival at the airport for placing fifth in the Asia-Pacific golf championship held recently in Queensland, Australia. From Gopez's left, Marvin Dumandan, Jay Bayron, coach Roger Retuerto, Jerome Delariarte and Juvic Pagunsan.

PREDRAG Drobnjak from Serbia and Montenegro loses a loose ball.

Parker sparkles as France gains

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Tony Parker scored 18 points as France held off a late Russian rally to win their quarterfinal, 76-69, Wednesday at the European Basketball Championship.

France, undefeated in four games, will play Lithuania in Saturday's semifinals. Lithuania, the highest-scoring team in the tournament, beat defending champion Serbia and Montenegro, 98-82, behind a game-high 27 points by Ramunas Siskauskas.

Serbia and Montenegro badly missed its biggest star, Peja Stojakovic of the Sacramento Kings. An NBA All-Star, Stojakovic injured his left ankle in the first quarter in an elimination-round win Monday over Turkey and he watched the game from the stands at the Globe Arena.

"We were not able to find out how to play without Stojakovic," Serbia and Montenegro coach Dusko Vujosevic said.

Serbia and Montenegro trailed by only four points at 80-76 early in the last quarter after a 17-0 scoring run that began with seven unanswered points late in the third quarter and 10 straight points early in the fourth.

But they never got any closer.

Guard Arvydas Macijauskas hit a 3-pointer to give Lithuania a 83-76 lead.

Parker, who became France's first NBA champion with the San Antonio Spurs last season, was named game MVP in the first quarterfinal. Former Boston Celtics great Larry Bird presented the award to the 21-year-old guard.

"It was a good game and I'm happy that we won it," Parker said. "Our big goal now is to finally win the championships." *AP*

'Les Bleus' leads three other sides to Euro '04

LONDON—The defending champion "les Bleus" of France led the first four qualifiers into next year's European Championships on Wednesday by winning 2-0 at Slovenia.

Sweden, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic also made it to Euro 2004, the Czechs scoring a stunning 3-1 win over the Netherlands to leave the star-studded Dutch to try and qualify for the runners-up playoffs.

Goals by David Trezeguet and Olivier Dacourt maintained France's perfect record of seven wins and the team goes to Portugal full of confidence despite its inept defense of the World Cup last year.

"This was the toughest match for us so far," France coach Jacques Santini said.

Jan Koller scored a penalty and Karel Poborsky and Milan Baros netted the other goals as the Czechs outplayed the Dutch in Prague.

Rafael Van der Vaart replied with the Netherlands already 2-0 down and playing with 10 men after the 14th minute ejection of Edgar Davids for two yellow cards.

Although the Dutch can still catch the Czechs for points, they have an inferior head-to-head record having been held 1-1 at home in March.

"This squad deserved to win," Czech captain Pavel Nedved said.

FREDI Bobic of Germany celebrates a goal. REUTERS

Sweden scored a 2-0 victory over Poland in Warsaw to ensure it finished top of Group 4 with strikes by Mikael Nilsson and Olof Mellberg.

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If I am seven .

Jojo Veloso threatens to sue ABS-CBN

CONTROVERSIAL talent manager **Jojo Veloso** is deadset on filing a case against ABS-CBN. He claimed his characterization in **Angelica Jones'** life story which was dramatized in Channel 2's "Maalala Mo Kaya," was tainted with malice.

"From the first scene that my character appeared, the story was already all wrong," he said. "I never gave Angelica my calling card. It was another writer who did. Even in the teaser for the show they showed my face without even bothering to get my side of the story first to make it fair and balanced."

Could it be another case of art not imitating life but a lie?

Jojo turned sullen and said: "The so-called exploitation case between Angelica and I has long been dismissed in 1996.

I don't know what's their point in opening it up again in her life story. They could have just focused on other aspects of her life. Why drag me into it without my knowledge? That's why I'm going to discuss with my lawyer in Caibiran, Leyte (where he is a board member) what legal action I should take. In the first place,

Angelica was never my 'alaga' (ward)."

But Jojo is not totally disheartened. He continues to discover and manage new talents. Considering all the scandals he has gotten embroiled in, I guess, that by now, he can bravely look at controversy in the eye and will remain unscathed!

Just asking

IS IT true that **Mylene Dizon** and **Paolo Paraiso** are the newest lovey-dovey couple in town?

For the longest time, Mylene went steady with **Ira Cruz** (of Passage band) and they seemed so inseparable.

Could Paolo be the cause or the effect of Mylene and Ira's split?

Whatever it is, a free-spirited woman like Mylene will only throw caution to the wind.

Twin hearts

POPS Fernandez is all agog about her upcoming soap "Twin Heart" on GMA 7.

"Just to make it different I'll try drama this time, and hopefully, the public will like what they see."

I teased her, "Does the title of your show mean that you found your heart's twin already?"

She burst into laughter, saying, "Ano 'yon (what's that)? Identical or Siamese?"

In the field of hosting and singing, Pipay has nothing to prove anymore. Her venturing into drama is a wise move. Although she has done movies already, her priority has always been the concert scene.

"I don't want to get stuck doing the same thing over and over again. I want to keep evolving! But that doesn't mean that I won't be doing concerts anymore. That will forever be my first love. I just want to find room for something more."

Pops has constantly reinvented herself. Now it's time for the Concert Queen to conquer another arena.

Kama Sutra lessons

MONSOUR del Rosario left for India to shoot a Hong Kong Kung Fu movie with some Asian martial artists.

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

The offer was too good to pass up so Mon didn't think twice about leaving his commitments here for a while. He is expected to return by the end of September.

I got to chat with him before he took off. We were both in a playful mood, and I chided him and asked, "So are you going to enroll for Kama Sutra lessons in India ?"

He burst into naughty laughter. "Hmm.. maybe I should apply to be one of the gurus instead of a student!"

No doubt his killer moves are not confined to taekwondo alone!

Cookie monsters

KID Power reigned at the Rockwell Plaza last week. Tons of kids and some of the country's brightest stars were out in full force to signal the beginning of the "Tini Wini Kid's choice, The Awesome Cookie Election mall tour."

The event kicked off with the Tini Wini motorcade of Beetle cars, top down vintage cars and the Tini Wini Roving Billboard that traveled along Edsa and around Rockwell.

The motorcade was led by the "other" president, **Ate Glow** with the T.W. mascots and the spokespersons for Tini Wini—**KC Montero** and **Heaven Arespacochaga**. Their bonding was so solid that KC did not see himself as Heaven's surrogate father.

"We are the best of buddies," he said. "That matters more than all those father labels. I love him like my own!"

Their taste in cookies was the same. Both were eating Tini Wini cookies when they got the call to endorse the product.

"No kidding! What a coincidence! Heaven and I are cookie monsters at heart!" KC grinned.

Personal

HAPPY Birthday to my aunts, **Tita Nette** and **Ta Lets**. Thanks for being the clan's anchor during this turbulent time.

A grand birthday toast to "Mr. Suave" my coolest buddy, **Patrick Reyes**.

Madamo gid na Salamat to my ever-dependable uncles **Raul** and **Swally Vega** for moving not just mountains for me.

FOR FEEDBACK E-Mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

KIDS at heart hit the malls: John Lloyd Cruz and Ciara Sotto lend star power to the the Awesome Cookie Election mall tour event last week.

Christmas in September

RIGHT on the dot, starting Sept. 1, we heard those familiar strains again-Christmas carols on local radio and TV. But Christmas is more than 100 days away! No matter what, our broadcast people are bent on upholding the "tradition" of the Philippine Yuletide season starting with the arrival of the "-ber" months. It's said that the Philippines has the longest Christmas season in the world, so keep those sleigh bells cheerfully ringing, folks!

On the other side of the argument, however, is some people's suspicion that this four-month-long celebration (more than five months, if you stretch it to just before Valentine's Day!) is in fact not so much tradition, as business unusual-as usual.

An early start to the Yuletide season means more time for people to think about the presents they'll be buying for their loved ones, so they end up spending more than they've originally planned!

People who like the long Christmas season say it encourages Filipinos to be more giving, hospitable, family-oriented and festive. On the other hand, the naysayers say it promotes a materialistic attitude, keeps us from focusing on more serious matters, and eventually leaves everyone exhausted, victims of "Christmas fatigue."

It wouldn't be so bad if our radio and TV stations refrained from playing those Christmas carols until Dec 1? Well, we can dream, can't we?

Asia now

LAST month, CNN started telecasting its new 7 p.m. weekday program, "Asia Now," a news and business show with an Asian perspective. Anchors **Veronica Pedrosa** and **Andrew Stevens** talked to correspondents around the world for fresh takes on events with an impact on Asia.

Of the two anchors, Pedrosa did the best work, expertly interviewing correspondents and news makers to get to the heart of each unfolding event. Stevens was also a capable anchor, but Pedrosa's more extensive experience made itself

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

felt, and bolstered the program's crisp sense of authority.

The two anchors' contrasting accents were disconcerting, however. Pedrosa's British speech didn't blend well with Stevens' slightly Australian accent, and the lack of aural integration proved to be a distraction. (Pedrosa's parents are Filipino, but she grew up in England, hence her accent.)

Another Filipina who did well on the show was CNN Indonesia bureau chief **Maria Ressa**, who gave a concise but comprehensive backgrounder on terrorist activities in Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia.

Ressa's report was made even more impressive by the fact that it was off-the-cuff. She benefited greatly from all the research, field work and interviews that she did on the subject for an extensive report that was telecast months ago.

"Asia Now" has a strong business component, an indication of what it feels is its target audience. All told, the hour-long program went well, but wasn't remarkably different from other shows of a similar format.

As the program ended, viewers were informed that it would have another edition two hours later. So, viewers who aren't at home by 7 p.m. can catch its updated edition at 9 p.m. on weekday nights. Try this new news-commentary-magazine program out for size, why don't you?

Arts cable channel

CABLE TV subscribers complain that they don't get enough variety in the package of cable channels offered to them. There are too many "filler" channels thrown in just to increase the total, like those featuring obscure languages that few viewers care to figure out.

Instead of all of these relatively useless channels, why not offer local viewers a cable channel on arts and culture? We know that such channels exist abroad, so we urge local TV suppliers to include at least one of them in their cable line-up.

Theater attendance figures and well-patronized exhibits and other artistic events indicate that the local audience for arts and culture-related presentations is growing. It's time, therefore, for cable services to include a channel on the arts in their list of offerings.

May we hear from our cable TV subscribers on this subject, so we can keep viewers and readers posted?

BUBLÉ: I'm still young ... if you ask me to choose between a Broadway show and 'The Matrix,' I'd say 'Matrix!' RUDY ESPERAS

Bublé talks of the sunny...

From page A32

but where would Madonna be without that audience?

Even earlier than that, there was Barbara Streisand.

Yes. And still Barbara lives off that audience.

How do you prepare for a recording session?

No routines. I just want to have studied the songs well. CDs are expensive. I don't want to just walk into the studio and sing blah-blah-blah, and then you go pay your hard-earned money for a CD that's crap. I prepare by learning songs and singing for over a million times in my shower. I also think about when I'm going to breathe, the phrasing and finding some inspiration. I study these great singers and steal a lot of techniques from them.

Does your interest in old music extend to Broadway or film?

Unfortunately, I'm very young in a way that if you ask me to choose between a Broadway show and 'The Matrix,' I'd say 'Matrix!' I'm still young in that sense. I played in "The Roxy" in Los Angeles a couple of weeks ago. I came there and said 'ladies and gentlemen, it is such a pleasure to be on this stage. So many of my idols, like Ozzy Osborne and Axl Rose, played here.' The audiences all stared at me. I don't pretend that I wasn't surrounded by all these ... In my lifetime, I grew up surrounded by Beastie Boys, Guns and Roses and ACDC. How can I lie and say I was surrounded by Bing Crosby, The Mills Brothers and Dick Haynes, when I wasn't? I made that my thing because I love it so much, I studied it. But just like you, you know these songs, these are part of our pop culture. You are just being true to yourself. Here's the thing, from the very beginning, let's not even talk about music, but a person, I just refuse to pretend to be something I wasn't. I'm honest. Sometimes people don't like me, sometimes they do. But at the end of the day, at least I'm true to myself.

Comparisons with Harry Connick Jr. surely crop up, how do you feel about this?

I think they're natural.

Do you see yourself following his footsteps?

I watched him in an interview the other day and he said that he sang the standards to open the doors so that he could do things that he wanted to do, like funk music and acting. So this music was a way for him to get somewhere else, whereas in my case, this music is a way for me to sing this music.

But you're not closing your doors to show biz?

No. I love acting. My sister is a better actress. She's really good. I'm not as good. I'm the eldest. There are two little sisters.

In our country you'd be called 'kuya.'

Kuya? Really? Then I'm the loudmouth big brother.

Talk about sincerity, how much of you is in this album?

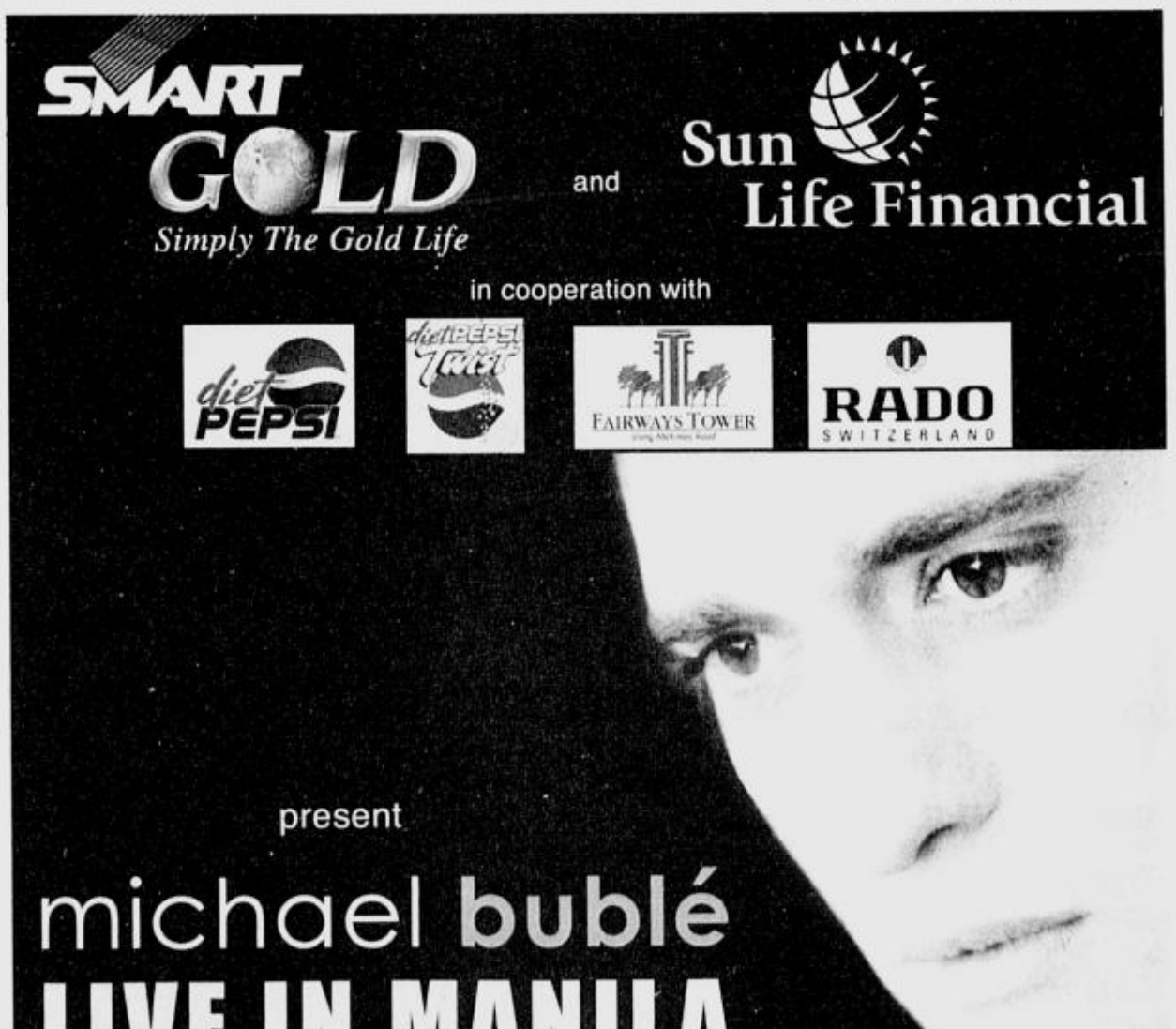
It's all me. Every mistake, every flat note and every corny thing that I say, that's me. My record company was very cool about saying to me 'just be yourself.' One even said 'you know, Michael, maybe you're not a trendsetter. But we like you."

You're so much like Martin (Nievera)?

Me? I think that's very cool. I strive to be what he is. I haven't met him, but I know what he does. He's a consummate entertainer. I don't want to compare him to Sammy Davis Jr. but he's very much like him.

What do you think is the weakest part of your act?

The part when I have to leave, that's where I'm weak. Honestly, the applause embarrasses me. I find it very strange that when someone finishes a song people would go (he claps). I live for the time when I'm singing the song and people would just sing along. I really get embarrassed. My manager would sometimes tell me, 'Michael you don't have to apologize.' I find it strange that people would leave and people would expect you to come back.



J Lo, Affleck postpone wedding at last minute

LOS ANGELES—Singer Jennifer Lopez and actor Ben Affleck have postponed their wedding scheduled for this Saturday after the closely held secret of its venue was blown, the Entertainment Tonight television show reported Wednesday.

The show's website etonline.com said the well-known couple put their nuptials on ice because of leaks of the venue and other details of the event that they had sought to guard in strictest secrecy.

ET said some 400 would-be guests had received secretive telephone invitations to the wedding, telling them only to be in Los Angeles on Saturday and that they would be informed from there where to go.

But after ABC Radio quoted a woman informant as saying the wedding was to be held in the Luxurious Biltmore Hotel in the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Barbara, calls went out to the guests saying it was off.

"It will be in the Baltimore Hotel," said a woman who said her daughter was to marry at the same place on the same day.

But according to the celebrity magazine US Weekly, the couple had picked the church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for the ceremony, and then planned to go to an exclusive mansion for a reception along with stars that include Bruce Willis, Jack Nicholson and Christian Slater.

Even pop singer Michael Jackson had to deny on Wednesday that the couple would be marrying at his "Neverland" amusement park. *AFP*

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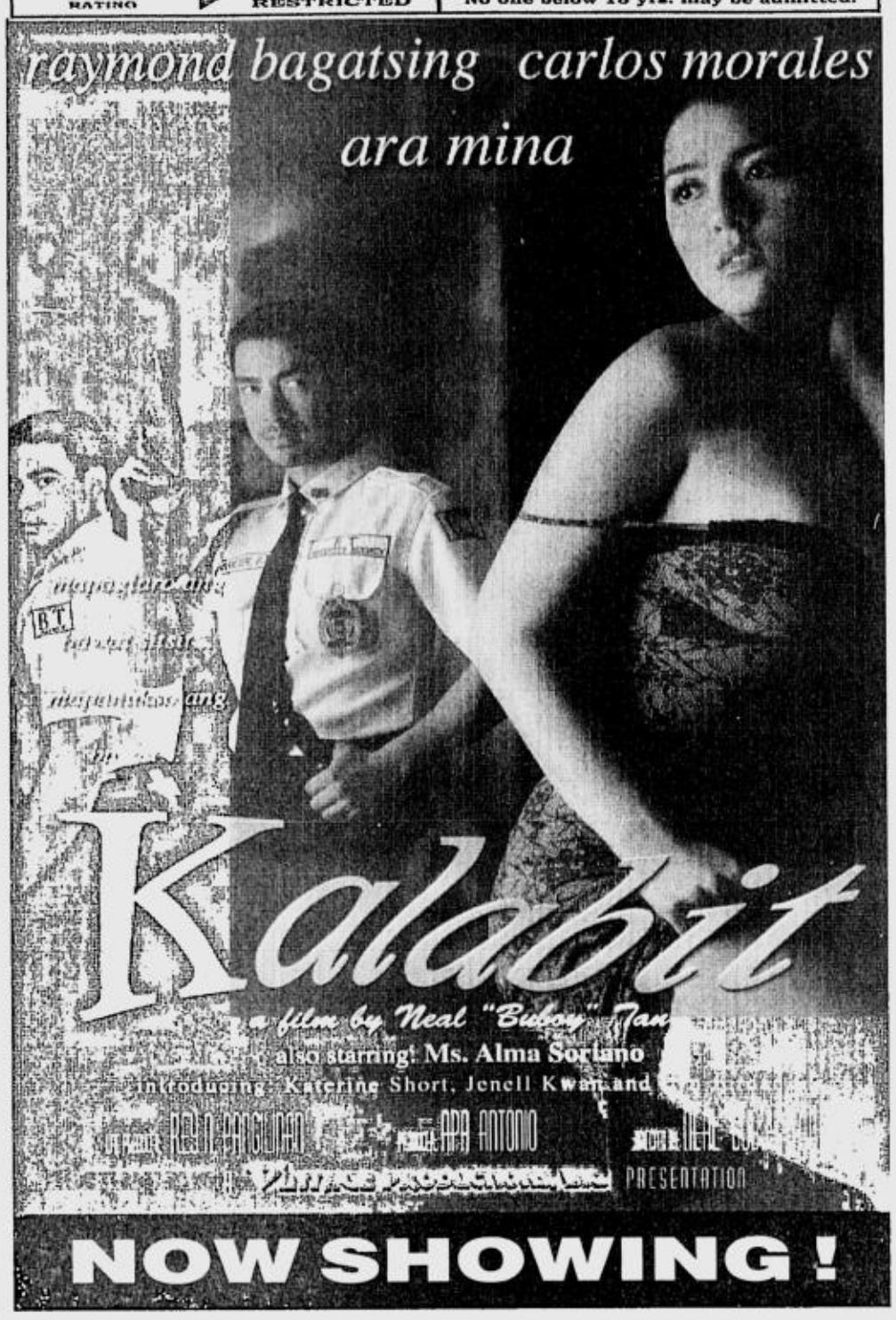

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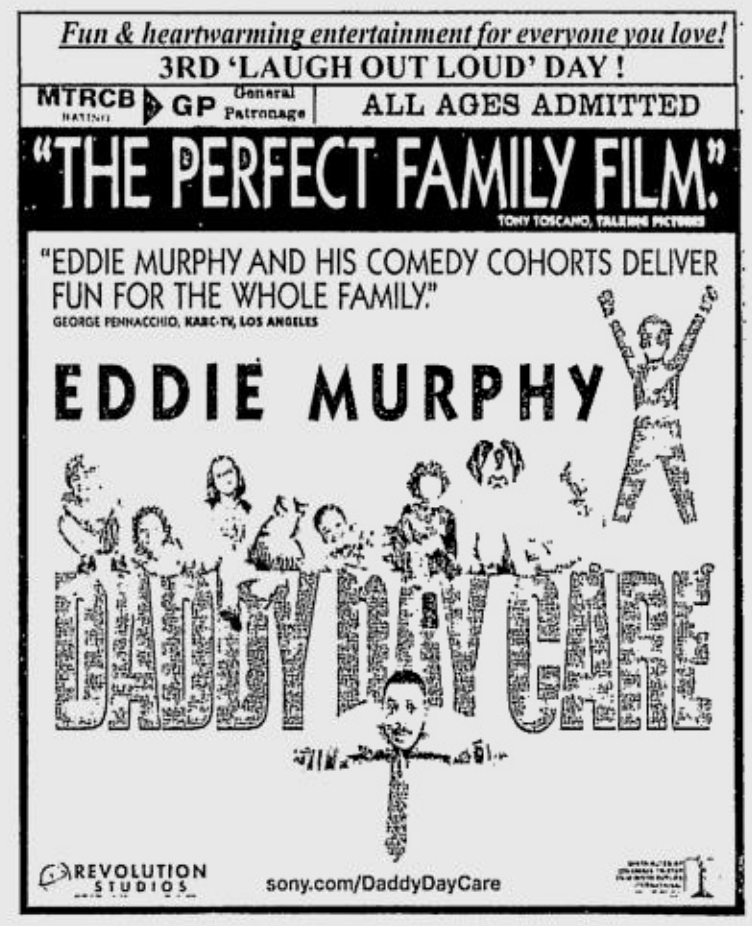

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	WWW.XXX.COM
Ali 2	ASBOOBS
Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
Ali 5	SWAT
Ali 6	KALABIT
Ali 7	DADDY DAY CARE

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 12	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES: ADMU VS. DLSU
SEPT 14	PBA: FED EX VS. GINEBRA
SEPT 15	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 16	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
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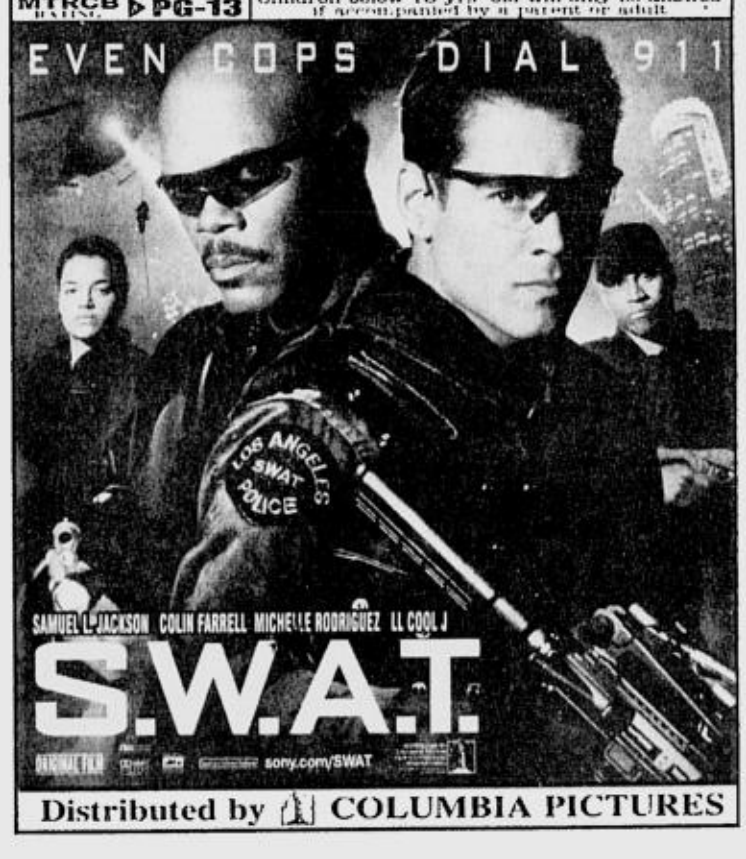


THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KALABIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ASBOOBS
B	KALABIT
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-28-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ASBOOBS
CINEMA-3	KALABIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-6	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-8	SINBAD
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DADDY DAY CARE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	WWW.XXX.COM
CINEMA-15	[illegible]

LORES

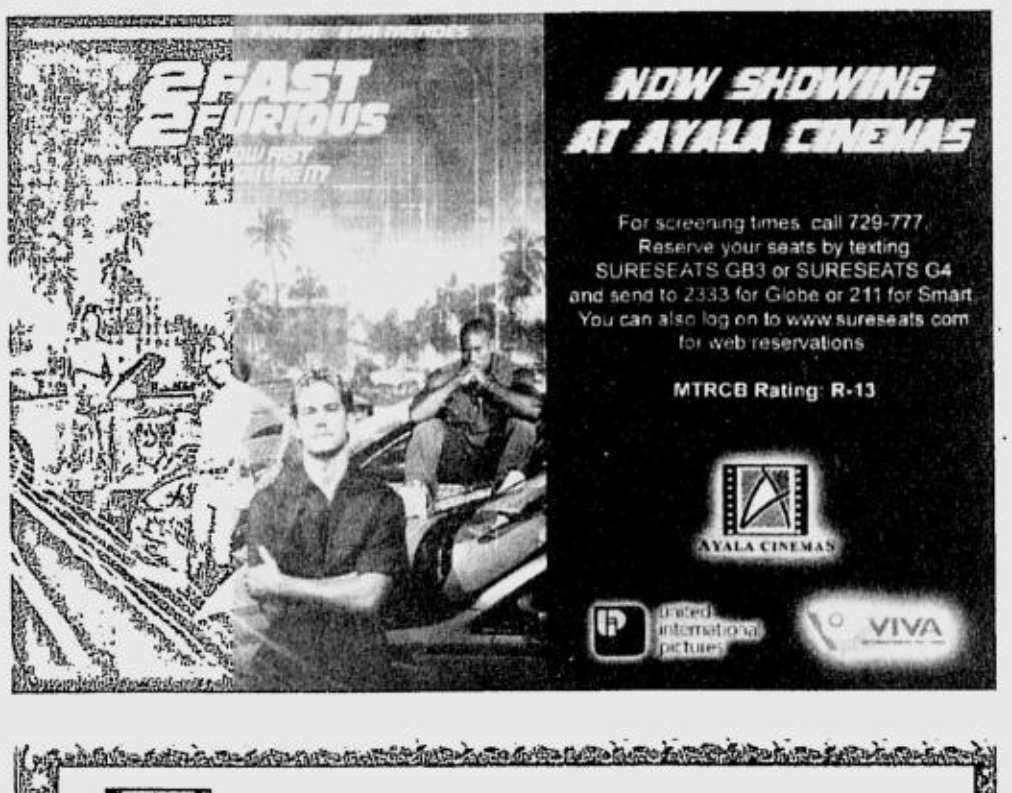
CINEMA 2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA 1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-4	WWW.XXX.COM

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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R13

CINEMA 2
DADDY DAY CARE
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MEDALLION PG13 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 GP 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS R13 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

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Megman Tata Esteban passes away at 48

By Marinel R. Cruz

ON WEDNESDAY night, film director Tata Esteban was trying on a new pair of pants which a friend had given him. He told his wife Imelda that it would look perfect with his barong tagalog.

The next morning, Sept. 10, Imelda found Esteban dead in their bed at their house on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Doctors at the Gen. Malvar Hospital in Quezon City said he died of cardiac arrest. He was 48.

His wife said Esteban had no known illness.

"I didn't think that there would be an occasion for him to wear that barong tagalog," Imelda told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday.

Before he died, Esteban was busy as a speaker for a religious group called Full Gospel. In fact, he was supposed to give a testimony today, on Saturday and Sunday.

"I found it unusual that he was aggressively asking (members of the Full Gospel group) to allow him to commit to their religious project," said Imelda.

Esteban, Steve Regala had three children by Imelda: Kathyreen, Sancho and stepdaughter Stephanie Joy.

His remains lie in state at the St. Peters Funeral Homes on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Sept. 16 at the Himlayang Filipino in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

ESTEBAN

In April, Esteban appeared on the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club" program and revealed how he turned away from his sinful lifestyle. In the program, he admitted to being a womanizer and drug user.

CBN will air a tribute to the director on Sept. 17 at 12:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN Channel 2.

Esteban directed such films as "Alapaap," "Hubo," "Materyales Fuertes," "Diwata" and "Double-Cross."

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Bublé talks of the sunny side of life

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao, Alex Vergara and Marinel Cruz

HE LOVES old songs, but Canadian singer Michael Bublé is very much the 25-year-old that he is.

In Manila for a concert on Sept. 18 at the PICC Plenary Hall, Bublé showed his comic side to members of the press in yesterday's conference, gamely rapping a few lines from one of Eminem's songs and admitting to admiring local talents Nina and Martin Nievera.

BUBLÉ

Bublé, however, stressed that he will keep on singing the classics of such legendary songwriters as George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter.

"You must understand that I am not a pop star that was turned into a crooner. No, because this is my music. It's the same for the musicians who travel with me. But I am also young, I can be immature and I still love to party," the single and very much available Bublé said.

The 6-foot, sandy-haired Bublé with eyelashes to die for, said the Philippines is familiar to him because there are many Filipinos in his native Vancouver, and one of his best friends in Canada is a Filipino. It was his Filipino friend who taught him to use the phrase, "bahala na."

Bublé skyrocketed to stardom through his soulful rendition of songs such as Peggy Lee's "Fever", Frank Sinatra's "Come Fly With Me" and Lou Rawls' "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," Van Morrison's "Moondance," and his personal favorite, "Sway" by Dean Martin.

Bublé was able to put his unique touch to these songs despite his age, having grown up with the music of artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Keely Smith, Sarah Vaughan, Stevie Wonder and Frank Sinatra. He said these were the singers that his grandfather—who calls him "Sunshine"—loved and constantly played around their house, particularly during Christmas.

In an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Bublé shared more of his thoughts on his music, sources of inspiration and plans for a new album, even an acting career.

Having paid tribute to some great songs by other artists, do you have plans to eventually sing your own songs?

Yes, I have written a number of songs and they sound more or less like the songs that I sing now. I may have two of my own compositions in my next album.

What do you think do these classic songs have that artists keep reviving them?

I believe it is the lyrics and melody that make these songs such classics. Artists will come and go, but these songs will live forever.

Do you remember the first time that you held a microphone in front of an audience?

Yes, I was in this place and I sang because I wanted to impress this girl, but I was not allowed to come back because they said I was too young.

How will you describe your audience?

I think about 60 percent of my audience are female and some of them are gay.

You don't have a problem with gays?

Not only do I not have a problem with gays, it's a huge privilege for me. Certain artists I know have had a life because of that audience, like Madonna. I'm sorry,

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Gov't debt burden swells to ₱2.97T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEBT burden of the national government swelled to P2.97 trillion in June, an increase of 12.08 percent or P320 billion from P2.65 billion a year ago.

The national government debt, which excluded P630 billion in so-called continent liabilities, accounted for 60 percent of the public debt stock totalling P5 trillion.

On a month-on-month basis, government data showed that the national debt grew by only P11 billion or 0.37 percent from P2.959 trillion in May.

But the debt load was expected to have surged in July to reflect the proceeds of a P74.3-billion retail bond issue as well as the $750-million, 10-year global bonds sold during the month. By end-July, the government debt stock would have hit and probably exceeded the P3-trillion mark.

Much-criticized for the rising level of public debt in proportion to the size of the Philippine economy, government officials stressed that 90 percent of the country's debts were to mature in more than five years and only 10 percent would be due in a year.

The officials said they were confident the Philippines would not go the way of Argentina, which defaulted on a $3-billion loan as most of its liabilities were short-term and eventually bunched up.

Of the total debt stock in June, domestic borrowings accounted for P1.54 trillion, up by P145 billion or 10.37 percent from a year ago and by P18 billion or 1.1 percent from the previous month.

A weaker peso in June (which averaged 53.65 to $1 compared to 50.50 a year ago and 53.35 the previous month) even bloated the level of external obligations.

As of June, the national government's external debt stood at P1.427 trillion ($26.602 billion), up by P172 billion or 13.98 percent from the level a year ago.

Month-on-month, however, the level of offshore obligations fell by P6 billion or 0.42 percent from P1.433 trillion ($26.856 billion) due to some repayments.

On top of outstanding obligations, the government also had to worry about the contingent liabilities that have been increasing significantly.

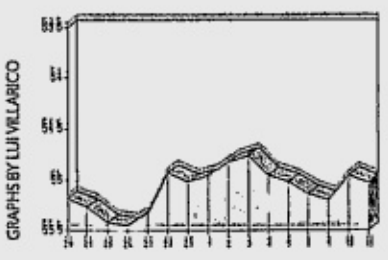
As of June, the total contingent obligations were about P130 billion higher than the P498.41 billion a year ago although lower than the P633.566 in the previous month.

Of the amount, P614.76 billion are directly guaranteed by the national government.

Contingent debts are borrowings backed by sovereign guarantees and could become actual liabilities each time state agencies and private sector companies with guaranteed loans fail to pay their obligations.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 11, 2003

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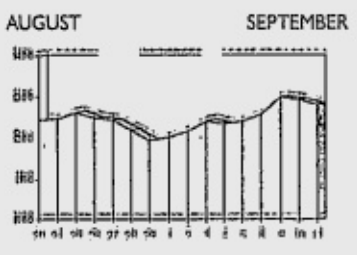
STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on security worries



SHARES fell for a second straight day yesterday, taking their cue from a fall in Wall Street as traders there grew wary on the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

American stocks fell following a new videotape showing al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden along with his top aide, who urged fighters to turn Iraq into a graveyard for American troops.

(See stock market report on Page B6)

Traders said the local market may simply be correcting following gains of 4.7 percent in the three days to Tuesday.

The Philippine stock index ended down 10.52 points or 0.81 percent at 1,282 points, leaving its year-to-date gains at 25.88 percent. The Dow Jones lost 0.91 percent on Wednesday.

"People might just be a bit cautious," said Mark Canizares, an analyst at Citisecurities Inc. "There might be lingering concerns on terrorist activities but the market was really ripe for profit taking."

Turnover dwindled to P371.98 million against P683 million on Wednesday. There were nearly four losers for every stock that gained.

There were signs that the market could strengthen again as players focus on the country's economic fundamentals, which have proved resilient to recent political and security woes, traders said.

"I think it remains upbeat, there's enough strength to retest the 1,300 level," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

Dominant phone firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. topped the list of losers, sliding P25 or 3.91 percent to P615 after its American Depositary Receipts listed in New York fell 4.07 percent on Wednesday.

Reuters

Banks' bad-loan ratio rose in July

THE BAD loans ratio of the country's more than 40 commercial banks deteriorated anew to 15.38 percent in July as lenders' total loan portfolio shrank even while the level of soured accounts eased slightly.

Non-performing loans slid by 0.44 percent to P256.8 billion, lower by P1.135 billion from June and down by more than P32 billion from a year ago when the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas used a more rigid computation of NPLs that led to a bad loans ratio at that time of 18.06 percent.

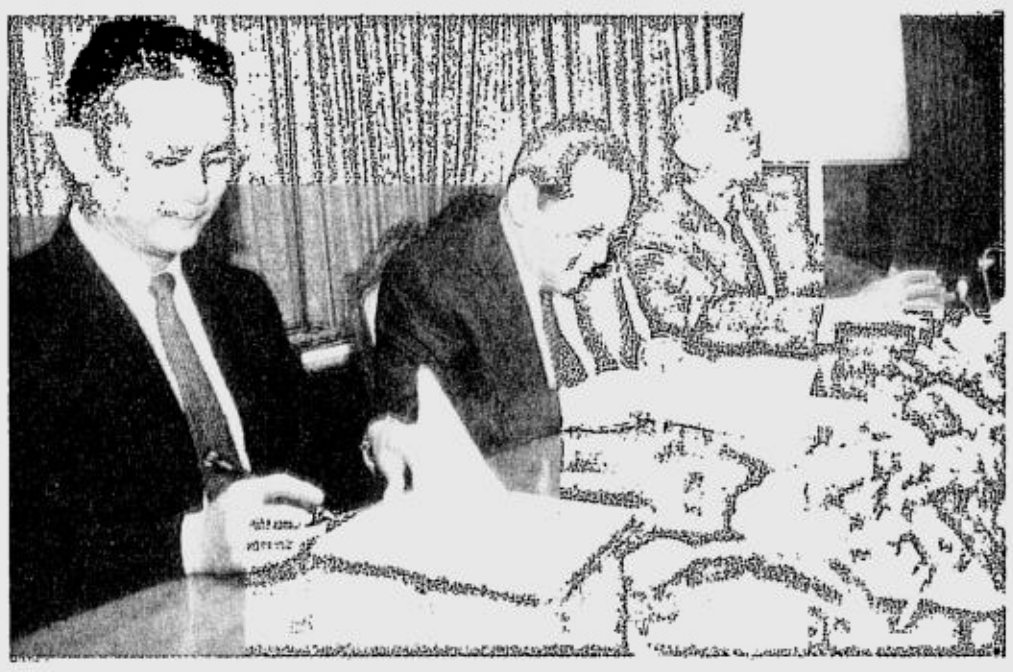
A looser definition implemented a year ago took out more than P30 billion in soured accounts that were already fully written off by banks.

The slight drop in NPLs was offset by a 1.63-percent decline in total loan portfolio to P1.67 trillion in July from P1.698 trillion the previous month.

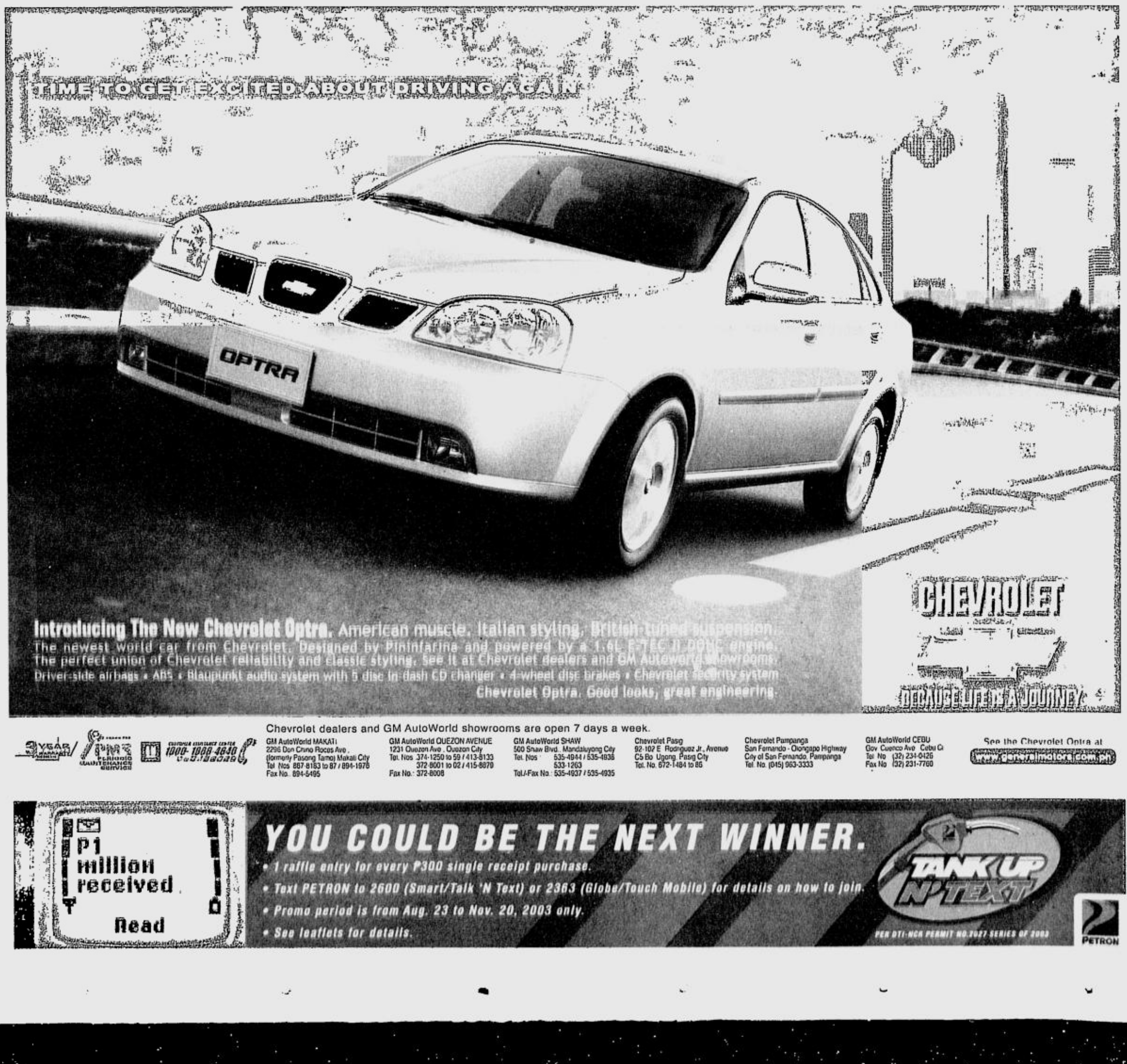
The drop in the total loan portfolio indicated a slowdown in the growth of commercial bank lending in July from a 5-percent growth in June.

The BSP said aggressive restructuring of loans helped reduce the NPLs during the period. Bad

BANKS/ B3



SAN MIGUEL SEALS THAI DEAL
San Miguel Corp. recently signed a $20-million agreement with Thai property developer Amata City Co. Ltd. for the purchase of a lot in Amata City's industrial estate in Rayong, Thailand. The purchase of the property, which will be San Miguel's future production site for its food and beverage products, is part of SMC's expansion program in the Asia-Pacific region. San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. (middle) signs the deal with (from left) parent firm Amata Corp. chief executive officer Vikrom Kromadit and chair Chavalit Yodmani.



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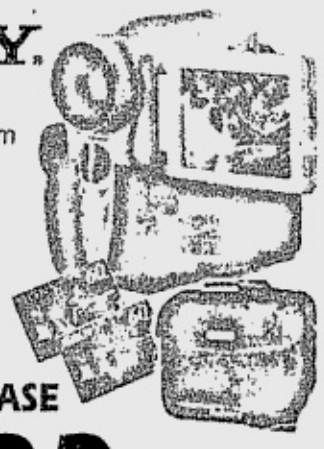

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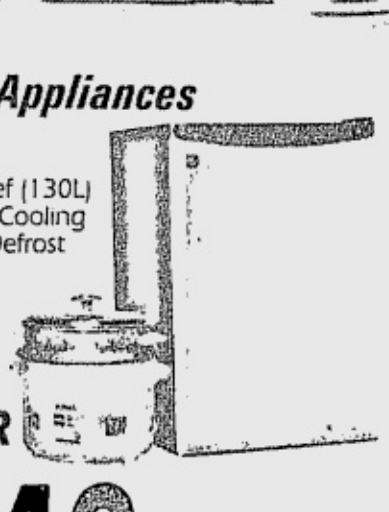

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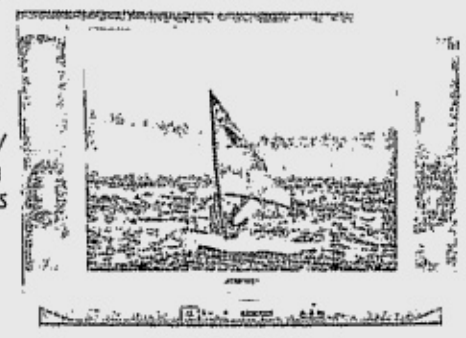

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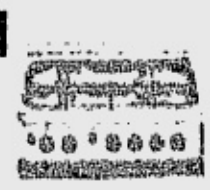

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SMC in talks to acquire Keppel unit

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GROUP of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is in talks to acquire Keppel IVI Investments Inc., a local investment house owned by the Keppel group of Singapore.

Keppel IVI has had trouble meeting the minimum capital and reportorial requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SEC officials said that negotiations between the SMC group and Keppel were ongoing though it was not clear whether the food and beverage giant itself or a subsidiary or affiliate would be the one to acquire the investment house, which can underwrite securities.

The SEC earlier assessed Keppel IVI a P665,000 penalty relative to the impairment of its capital in violation of the minimum capital requirement and its late submission of reportorial requirements, specifically its first quarter 2003 and general information sheets from 2000 to 2003.

Banks...

From page B1

loans or NPLs are accounts whose principal or interests remained unpaid for 90 straight days.

Restructured loans expanded by 0.44 percent to P136.58 billion from P135.98 billion in June, bringing the ratio of gross restructured loans up to 8.09 percent in July from 7.93 percent a month ago. Restructured loans are taken out of the NPL list.

During the same period, banks continued to resort to foreclosures to settle delinquent accounts.

As a result, foreclosed assets grew 1.31 percent to P193.36 billion from P190.87 billion the previous month. As a result, the ratio of real and other properties owned or acquired or Ropoa reached 5.88 percent of total assets from 5.7 percent in June.

Clarissa S. Batino

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 09, 2003	Last Week September 02, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.09044	1.08681
Managed Fund - Peso	1.11175	1.09418
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.00140	0.98510

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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   note: incomplete entry will not be honored.
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5. All entries must be dropped in drop boxes on or before December 31, 2003. All mailed-in entries received until January 10, 2004 with December 31, 2003 postmark will be valid for the promo. Grand Raffle Draw will be held on January 15, 2004 at Astech Pengson Distributors Inc. head Office at 2:00 pm under the Supervision of a DTI representative.
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   Five (5) Winners of Laminator
   Twenty (20) Winners of TM-170 DataBank
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9. Winners must claim their Prizes within 60 days receipt of notification . Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
10. For provincial winners, the prizes will be sent through courier.
11. A participant can only win once. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
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13. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
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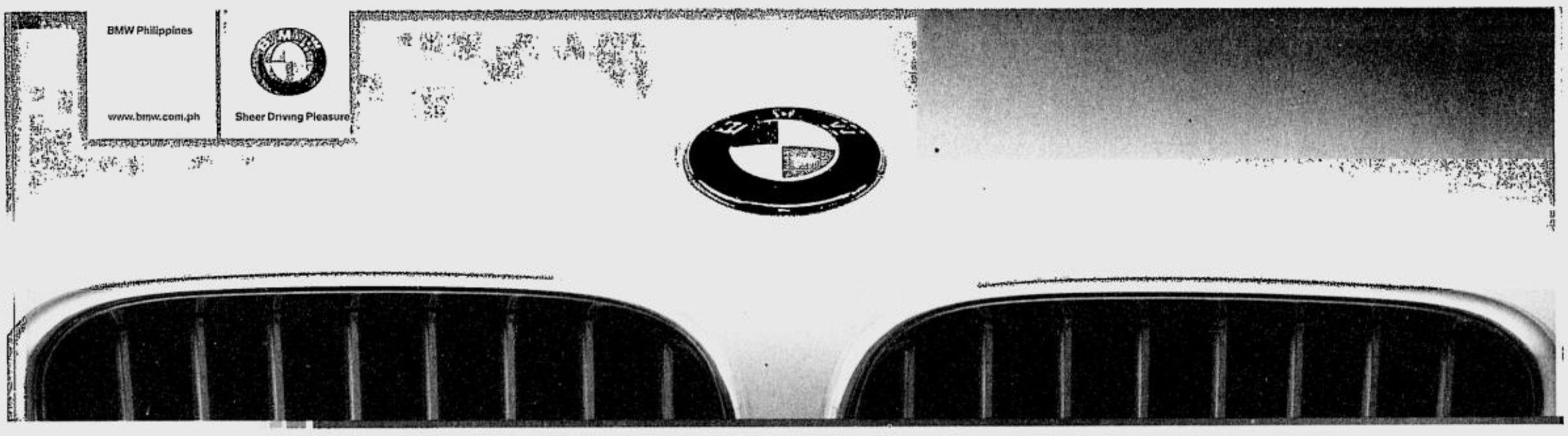

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Whilst the Peso decline in value against other major currencies is well documented daily in the press – and a new Automotive Excise Tax Bill has now been signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo – it still awaits final implementing guidelines.

Fortunately for us all, the new Bill is favorable for passenger cars. Yes, it will result in new BMW suggested retail prices being re-aligned due to new Automotive Excise Taxes and the effects of the Euro-Peso relationship. But do not expect all models to be substantially reduced.

So, should you wait to buy your new BMW?

For some models, the answer is certainly "Yes"!

But for all our BMW 316i and 318i models, the answer is a categorical **"NO"**!

BMW's commitment to both you, our customers, and our authorized dealer network has resulted in a decision to sell these two models at the new post excise tax prices, in order to support our retail partners and our assembly partner.

So, there is no need to delay your purchase of these models. Select and buy any 316i or 318i model today, as it is definite that the prices will not be lowered further.

You have my assurance on this. But stock of these models is limited, so act now!

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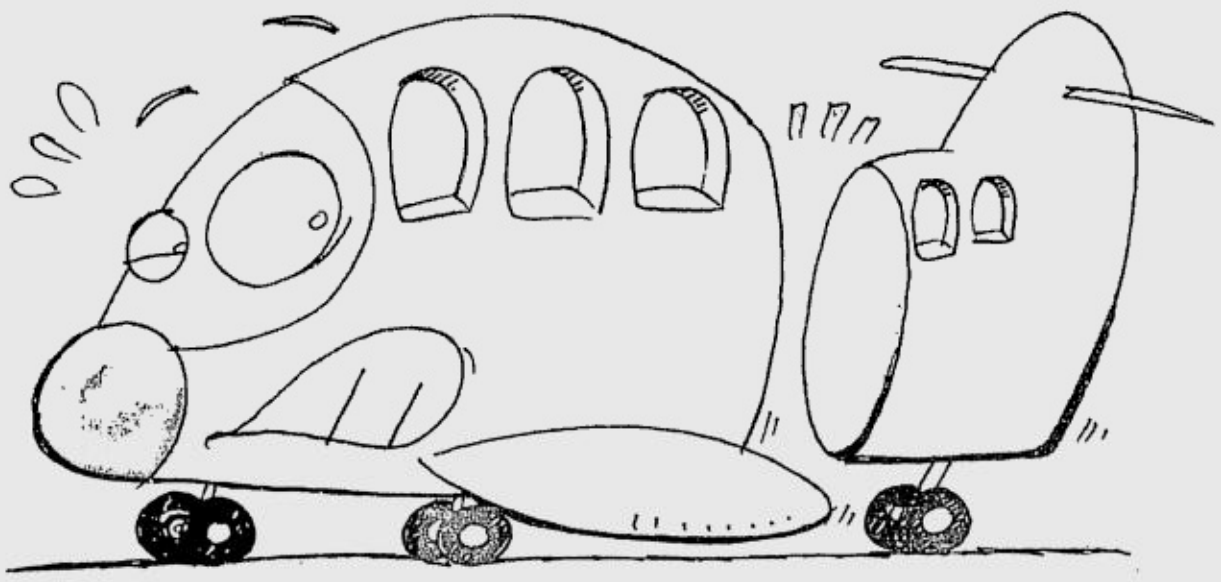
Decline in airline passenger volume slows down



By Abigail L. Ho

ALTHOUGH still reeling from the ill effects of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak earlier in the year, Asia-Pacific airlines have started to show signs of recovery by posting a lower decline of 14 percent in passenger volume in July.

According to data from the International Air Transport Association (Iata), Asia-Pacific airlines fared better in July than in June when the decline in passenger traffic was at 32 percent.

However, even with the improvement in passenger volume in July, the Asia-Pacific region was still the worst performing region in the world that month.

Asia-Pacific carriers responded accordingly to the drop in traffic by slashing their available capacity by 11.5 percent.

During the first seven months of the year, Asia-Pacific airlines posted a 15.5-percent decline in passenger traffic and a 3.5-percent reduction in available capacity.

Airlines in the North American region were the second worst performer in the world, both in July and for the first seven months of year.

North American carriers suffered a 7.8-percent and a 10.6-percent decline in passenger volume in July and for the first seven months of the year, respectively.

Aside from Asia-Pacific and North American carriers, European and African airlines also suffered declines in passenger traffic. Those from South America and the Middle East, on the other hand, managed to post growth.

While still posting a decline in passenger volume, worldwide traffic figures have begun to show signs of recovery with passenger volume dropping by only 3.6 percent in July compared with 12.4 percent in June.

"July figures confirm that traffic is well on its way to recovery. Although we are still below last year's levels, the improvement is impressive enough to suggest that we will end the year 2-percent down on 2002 levels," Iata director general and chief executive Giovanni Bisignani said in a statement.

In the January-to-July period, overall passenger traffic fell by 6.5 percent.

"While passenger traffic is clearly returning, we cannot ignore the influence of the price incentives that airlines have offered to stimulate the market. The strength of the recovery will become evident in the coming months as pricing returns to more economic levels," Bisignani said.

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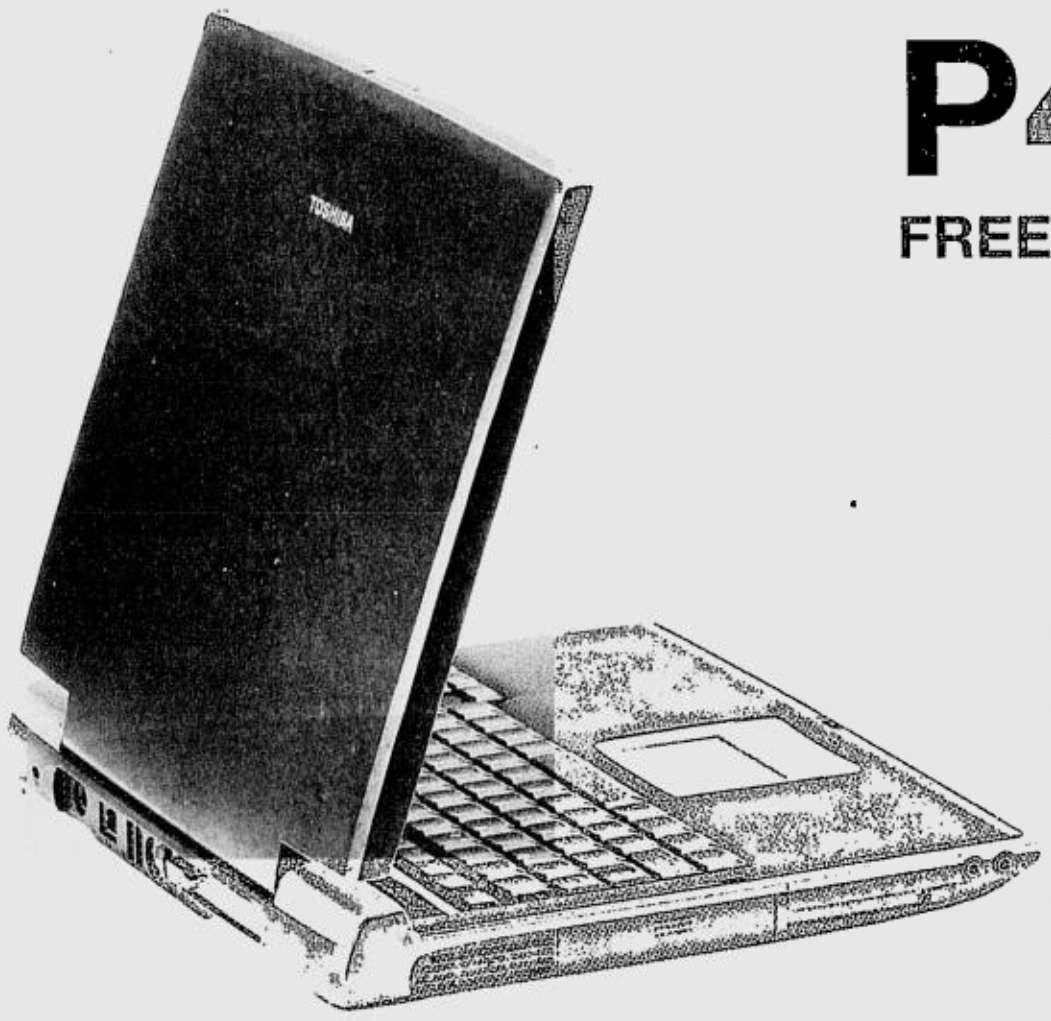

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Indian funds shine in August, RP stumbles

HONG KONG—Mutual funds focused on India delivered the highest returns to investors in Asia in August, while Philippine-themed products were the region's worst performers.

India-focused mutual funds returned 12.43 percent during the month, according to data from fund research firm Lipper, a Reuters Plc. company.

"Fundamentally, it's getting better and better," said Nilesh Jasani, regional equity strategist at HSBC. "We think the (Indian) market can go up by another 10 percent before the start of elections next year."

Investors have been betting Asia's third-largest economy will grow more than 6 percent this year following plentiful monsoon rains, which are crucial for India's huge farm-dependent rural sector.

Top regional investment

India was named along with South Korea and Taiwan as the joint top regional investment destinations for fund houses in the coming months, according to a quarterly Reuters/Benchmark survey.

The gain posted by Indian funds in August outperformed the 11.9-percent rise in the benchmark Bombay share index during the same period. Since the end of April, the Bombay index has surged more than 50 percent.

Funds investing in Japan were the second best performers in August, delivering 8.48 percent returns to investors.

Japanese stocks have been boosted by optimism over the economy, which grew by one percent quarter-on-quarter in the April-June period, its fastest clip in two and a half years.

The Nikkei average has gained 11 percent since the end of July.

Foreign investors bought a net $13.7 billion of Japanese stocks in August, Japan's Finance Ministry said on Wednesday.

Thailand thrives

Thailand-themed funds ranked third, with 8.05 percent returns in August.

Investors have piled into Thailand's equities on optimism over its economy, making it one of Asia's best performing stock markets this year.

Thailand has seen a net foreign fund inflow into equities of $446.5 million since the beginning of the year, according to Nomura International.

Funds focused on the Philippines were the only ones among the 15 geographic sectors tracked by Lipper to suffer losses in August. They lost 3.59 percent after losing 0.64 percent in July.

The main stock index fell 3.8 percent in August.

"We are a bit underweight on the Philippines. The market is one of the worst performers in Asia in the past two to three months. That's partly because of an election next year," Jasani said. "There is a lot of uncertainty about the policies."

South Korean funds came in second last, despite posting 1.81-percent gains on average during the month. *Reuters*

Loose lips

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE International Commercial Bank of China, where a "Hong Kong account" was implicated by Sen. Panfilo Lacson as having funneled millions of pesos into the alleged Jose Pidal accounts, has had to buy advertising space to ensure that its denial of the Lacson allegation gets published by the newspapers.

But what is more striking is not the advertisement per se but the Lacson's claim about the alleged Hong Kong account he cited in Part 2 of his Senate exposé.

How could there be a "Hong Kong account" when ICBC, a Taiwanese bank, has no branch in Hong Kong at all?

Unconvinced? Go ahead and check for yourself the ICBC web page at www.icbc.com.tw.

And to think that after the initial fumble about Lacson mistaking an already closed branch of the Bank of the Philippine Islands in his Part 1 of Senate exposé, the former police/spy chief would be more careful with his facts.

Apparently, this is another case again of, to quote Lacson, *wow! mali!*

(The chief fact-checker of the Lacson camp, according to advertising executive Greg Garcia, is his political adviser/spokesperson Angelito Banayo.

Lacson himself is supposedly still in the United States, trying to stop a California court from foreclosing on the Lacson home in the Golden State in connection with a damage suit filed by an arms supplier over a botched handcuffs deal when Lacson was still police chief.

But that is another story.

Imperial counsel

THE Cebuanos chafe at "Imperial Manila" for the capital's preeminent and oftentimes domineering position, but in the fight between the island's leading families, who do they call to represent them in the Cebu court but the leading lawyers from the imperial city.

The Garcias have beefed up their legal team in their fight with the Aboitizes over control of the Visayan Electric Co. by hiring lawyers from ACCRA Law led by Supreme Court resource person Francis Lim.

The Aboitizes are banking on their longtime retained counsel, Sycip Salazar, through lawyer E.M. Lobos, to slug it out for them in the Regional Trial Court of Cebu.

According to the grapevine, the Garcias and the Aboitizes were already talking about an exit option for the Garcias in Veco when the negotiations broke down.

The Aboitizes have long had Sycip Salazar as counsel, and they, therefore, no longer had to cough up the so-called "acceptance fee," which could go as high as P500,000, demanded by many established law firms.

On the other hand, this is the first time that the Garcias hired ACCRA, where senior partners, as in Sycip Salazar, reportedly charge P4,000 to P5,000/hour of work.

Good news, bad news

• HONDA still has a "few units" of CR-V available at the old price.

• GOODWILL Bookstore this month laid off about 150 employees. A local sock manufacturer, Burlingame, was unluckier, having to permanently close shop. The long-time SM Shoemart supplier was weighed down by debts and low-cost imports from China.

Heard through the grapevine

THE Senate Blue Ribbon committee is set to issue today a resolution denying Ignacio Arroyo's claim to his right to privacy in his refusal to give in to the Senate fishing expedition and divulge details of the Jose Pidal accounts.

Arroyo is expected to challenge the legality of the Senate ruling before the Supreme Court.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.

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BSP says flow of 'hot money' slowed down in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN portfolio investments in August continued to yield a net inflow of $38.2 million but the level was 53 percent lower than the previous month's $82 million as investors worried about a string of adverse political developments starting with the July 27 mutiny.

The failed military uprising also weakened the peso to a recent low of 55.60 to $1. Yesterday, however, the local currency sustained its modest recovery to 54.931 from 54.95 last Wednesday.

Investors continued to take profit on the dollar judging from a substantial turnover of $162 million.

Data submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that compared to a year ago, the net inflow was higher by $24.7 million or 183 percent from $13.5 million.

In the first eight months, net portfolio inflow reached $351.4 million against $263.8 million a year ago.

Due to its fleeting nature, hot money investments reflected investors' sentiment that had been weakened by a series of political problems besetting the Macapagal administration.

Foreign portfolio funds are normally invested in the stock market, government securities, mutual funds and insurance. Unlike direct investors who build factories and set up local shops for a long-term period, hot money investors pull out their funds easily during periods of uncertainty.

After the July 27 mutiny, the market was rocked by the Court of Appeals' decision to suspend BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura and four other senior officials.

After that, Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo of money laundering.

As a result, $107.5 million of portfolio funds left in August against $145.7 million that came in. In the first eight months, $869.7 million of inbound funds outpaced $518.3 million that slipped out.

The BSP said the improving stock market index should reflect the increasing inflow from portfolio investments as foreigners look out for bargains in the local equities market.

The central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds to flow in the coming months to offset the drag in direct investments.

Despite the political jitters, government officials insisted that economic fundamentals have remained sound as reflected by stable prices of commodities and a disciplined fiscal sector that has kept domestic interest rates modest. Growth, however, slowed down in the second quarter following the poor performance of the farm sector.

Still, the economy is expected to hit the 4.2-percent growth target for the year and this should help build investor confidence in the Philippines.

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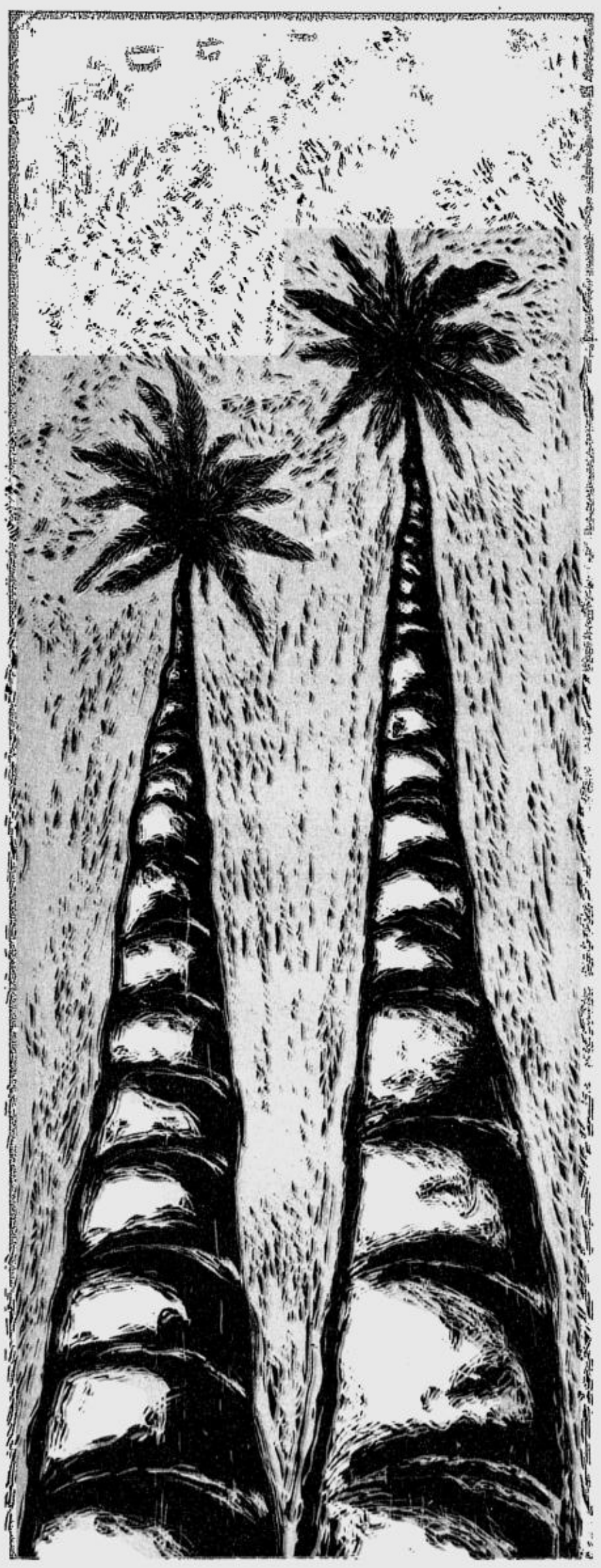

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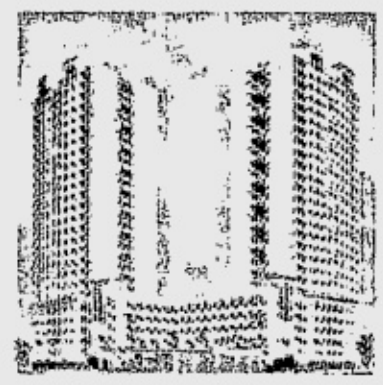

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SEC extends suspension of broker-dealer rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has granted the Philippine Stock Exchange relief from two stringent rules under the Securities Regulation Code governing broker-dealer segregation and tender offering.

In a circular to brokers yesterday, PSE head of compliance and surveillance group Lourdes de Guzman said the corporate watchdog had extended the suspension of the two rules for an indefinite period.

She said the continued suspension would take effect until the provisions of the SRC on monitoring of affiliated transactions by broker-dealers shall have been amended by Congress.

The fresh extension was welcomed by brokers, noting that the two rules should be amended if not repealed as these were detrimental to the stock market.

The broker-dealer rule segregates the functions of a broker from a dealer and prevents PSE members from performing both.

By definition, a broker is one who conducts trade in behalf of clients or public inventors while a dealer traders for his/her own account.

PSE trading participants wanted the repeal of this provision, noting that in times of a slump when investors shy away from the market, dealer transactions helped perk up the market and cover overhead costs of brokerage firms.

In lieu of the suspension of the broker-dealer rule, broker-dealers will still be required to disclose to the SEC within five days pertinent details on their transactions.

The broker-dealer rule was inserted as a safeguard in the SRC in reaction to the infamous BW Resources Corp. stock manipulation scandal during the Estrada regime.

The SEC likewise extended the suspension of the tender offer rule, which requires investors who buy into a company to make a tender offer once the stake has hit the 15-percent threshold for a single acquisition or 30 percent for a creeping acquisition.

The SEC, for its part, has increased the threshold to 35 percent.

The suspension of these two rules was first granted by the SEC on Sept. 10, 2002, covering a one-year period. Without the new extension, the suspension would have lapsed today.

The tender offer rules aims to prevent the unfair dilution of shareholders as it gives them the opportunity to sell their shares to a new investor at the same price accepted by the selling stakeholder.

Music posts 2-yr high in sales orders

SEMICONDUCTOR firm Music Corp. posted a two-year high in sales orders for the month of August, bolstering hopes that the turnaround in operations since March 2002 could enable the company to settle its debts by next year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Music said orders for semiconductors skyrocketed to $830,000 in August compared to the average monthly bookings of only $100,000 over the last two years.

"Music cautions, however, that visibility in the networking market remains extremely limited, and thus it is much too early to translate the August result into a new trend," the disclosure said.

"In fact, Music's management believes that a full recovery will not occur prior to the 2005-2006 timeframe," it said.

But given its current level of business, the company said it had been consistently profitable and has been generating cash flow over the last 17 months.

"This represents a significant turnaround from the losses and negative cash flow of the years 1998 to 2001," it said.

"If current business levels hold, its US subsidiary Music Semiconductors Inc. (MSI) will generate sufficient cash flow to pay off its outstanding obligations sometime during 2004," it added.

MSI's target is to generate a net profit of at least $1.7 million by the end of this year compared to the net income of $1.62 million in 2002 and the loss of $7.78 million in 2001, banking on the growth in the manufacture of binary content addressable memory (CAM) products that are used to speed packet processing in networks.

MSI earlier filed for voluntary bankruptcy and is now undergoing reorganization.

A bankruptcy court of the northern district of California has already released MSI from bankruptcy protection under the United States' Chapter 11 laws, after its creditors voted in favor of the company's reorganization plan. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Digitel seeks $120-M loan

By Elena R. Torrijos

DIGITAL Telecommunicarions Philippines Inc., a unit of the Gokongwei family's JG Summit Holdings, is seeking $120 million in financing over the next three years to fund civil works to support its Sun Cellular wireless phone service.

The publicly listed telecommunications firm has started negotiations to borrow the funds from the Overseas Private Investment Corp. of the United States in the form of medium-term notes.

Digitel has sounded out state-owned Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency to provide a guarantee for the planned borrowing, Philexim president and chief executive Joel Valdes said in an interview on Wednesday.

If approved, the financing will be released by OPIC in three tranches amounting to $40 million each year over the next three years. The borrowing will have a term ranging from 10 to 15 years.

Last month, publicly listed JG Summit was reportedly planning to finance the planned outlay of $180 million by subsidiary Digitel for the expansion of the latter's wireless network.

"We (at Digitel) already spent approximately $220 million in capex and we have programmed about $180 million over the next 18-month period to expand and improve our network," JG Summit president and Digitel director Lance Gokongwei said following the holding company's annual stockholders' meeting early last month.

MIMOSA golf course

CDC says Mondragon forfeited claim to Mimosa

STATE-OWNED Clark Development Corp. (CDC) said that Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp. (MLRC) headed by Jose Antonio Gonzalez had no right to rescind the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on MLRC's claim to retake the Mimosa Leisure Estate inside the Clark special economic zone.

CDC president Emmanuel Y. Angeles said MLRC has forfeited its claim to the resort following its failure to pay more than P450 million in arrears on the Sept. 8 deadline as specified in the MOU.

The unilateral rescinding of the agreement by MLRC had no effect due to the failure of MLRC to comply with the provisions of the MOU, he said.

The April 30, 2003, agreement was signed between Angeles and Faustino S. Roberto, president and chief operating officer of MLRC.

Angeles said that CDC has invoked Article XI of the April 30 MOU which stated "that failure on its part (referring to MLRC) to comply fully with the MOU and Memorandum of Agreement within the given time frame shall be a conclusive ground for its withdrawal of its claims and interest over the Resort Complex, including waiver of any action against CDC and shall voluntarily leave the premises of the Resort Complex, without need of judicial action."

"MLRC should have paid its arrears to CDC in full before the expiration of the 2nd Interim Agreement on June 8 this as specified in the Payment Terms Article III of the MOU," Angeles said.

But at present, Angeles said no payment has been made to CDC which Gonzalez himself admitted in his letter on June 6 claiming that MLRC was "having difficulties in complying with the MOU citing as reasons the various issues with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), the creditors and global economic conditions."

In the Aug. 19 letter of Angeles and CDC Chair Rizalino Navarro to Gonzalez, "(we) reiterate the objective of the MOU which is the settlement of all financial obligations of MLRC to CDC. Pagcor, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the group of secured creditors for purposes of privatization of the former Mimosa resort complex and to put to rest all legal issues."

Banks' denial stage hampers SPV growth

By Clarissa S. Batino

LOCAL banks remain in denial as to the seriousness of their non-performing loans (NPL) problem. And this has been the main drag to the special purpose vehicles designed to ease their woes.

There is a general sentiment among local banks that they are better off compared to other lenders in the region that saw their non-performing loans hitting 40 to 50 percent of total loans after the Asian crisis, according to BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

"At 15 percent (NPL ratio), local banks still feel safe. If they were in the position of Thai banks before, then they could become very desperate. If 50 percent of your asset was (non-performing), then out of desperation you will do anything. But at at 15 to 20 percent, you can still survive," the BSP chief surmised.

"But you see, we are saying survival is not good enough," he stressed.

He observed that there was also an underlying—although misplaced—optimism among banks that their fortunes would turn around anytime.

"People would like to be optimists when they are losing. They have to balance that with the idea that if they keep on going that way, will they survive in the future? Because slowly, their returns are being eroded. I guess some banks that are well-capitalized can afford to wait," the BSP chief noted.

Eight months after the government passed a law providing tax breaks to special purpose vehicles (SPVs) that would take out part of the banking system's nearly P500 billion in bad loans and seized assets, no Philippine lender has yet to sign a deal with an SPV operator.

As a result, the industry's bad loans remained at more than 15 percent of total loans at a time when credit was also growing at a snail's pace. Bad loans or NPLs are accounts unpaid for 90 straight days.

The tax incentives that would reduce the cost for the banks to sell their loans and the asset management firms to acquire them would expire in two years.

"Either the banks are in denial or the funds are just too aggressive in their pricing. At some point they have to come to terms or banks may just have to explore other alternatives," Buenaventura said.

The going rate for the special purpose vehicles is to ask banks to sell the bad loans and assets at a 70- to 80-percent discount. Banks, on the other hand, avoid taking losses and so have been trying to sell the NPLs at a rate inversely proportional to the offer of the AMCs.

To help bridge the pricing gap, the BSP is encouraging agencies like the Asian Development Bank and the International Finance Corp. to devise a structure that would facilitate the sale of NPLs.

Buenaventura explained that since the ADB and the IFC look out for a more reasonable rate of return, then it could devise a formula with the asset management funds to increase the price being offered to banks for the purchase of the bad loans and seized assets.

"Or they could talk directly with the bank and offer a funding mechanism to help the banks cope with the losses of selling their NPLs at a discount," the BSP chief added.

Banks, according to Buenaventura, have to realize that there has to be a certain pain-sharing, that there was a cost to having exposed themselves to credit risks and that holding on to these soured accounts and foreclosed assets would only cramp their operations in the future.

If banks do not take advantage of the SPV law, then that would be their lookout.

"They will be left in the wayside by banks who take on a more realistic view. We do not lack the carrot and stick formula. The carrot is if you do it now, you don't have transfer fees. The stick is if you forever carry a heavy load of NPLs, it will erode your earnings and eat up your capital," he explained.

Buenaventura said some banks may decide to just beef up their capital for the meantime and hope the economy would recover soon.

"That's another alternative. To bring in more capital where your return on capital will be low, but at least your cost of carrying the NPLs will be less. But in this arrangement, it is the shareholders who sacrifice because they are financing non-earning assets," the central bank governor explained.

Buenaventura stressed that banks need not even sell their NPLs to AMCs or venture funds. "Some banks may eventually end up looking for individual buyers and take advantage of the SPV incentives."

In the end, the BSP chief said banks were old enough to decide for themselves the best way to deal with a lingering problem.

"We cannot force banks to do anything but they have to deal with the consequences of their inaction later. We could lead the horse to the water but we could not force it to drink. But if the horse continually refuses to drink, then it will die of thirst," Buenaventura warned.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 11, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.25	4.25	4	4	24,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	51,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43	42.5	43	577,400
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	590
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34.5	34	34.5	210,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	30	111,000
Philippine National Bank	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	77,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	12,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	298,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	24,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKARD Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	86,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	3,900,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1210	1225	1210	1215	3,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	1,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	700	680	700	62,220
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	10,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	1,220,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	635	635	615	615	124,770
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	13.75	14	422,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22.25	22.25	21.75	21.75	1,220,200
Petron Corp.	1.98	2	1.96	1.98	257,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	383,000
Keppel Phils Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	370,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2.5	2	2.5	14,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,312,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	342,200
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53.5	53	53.5	18,800
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	58,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.35	10,177,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,159,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.58	8,560,000
A Brown Company Inc	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
Crown Equities Inc	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	6,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.5	18.5	17.75	17.75	730,800
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	55	55	55	55	100
Global Equities Inc	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
Ionics Inc	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1,650,000
Metro Pacific Corp	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	160,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,300,000
Univide Holdings Inc	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	2,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.2	3.2	3	3	4,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	320,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN HLDGS. CORP. (POR)	25	25	25	25	715,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series 2	10	10	10	10	200
Philweb Corp - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	20,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	4,413,000
Citylana Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	12,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Empire East Land Int	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	180,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	6,776,000
Kuok Phil Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,090,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	2,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	11,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6	6.1	6	6.1	2,442,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	1,050,000
Lepanto Cons Mng Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	740,000
Manila Mining Corp A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	60,000,000
Omico Corp	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	36,000,000
Philex Mining Corp A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	800,000
Philex Mining Corp B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	700,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Keppel Philippines Properties Inc. accepted the resignation of director Charles Yap Giok Twee and elected Benedict Kua Hun Guan as replacement, effective immediately.

***

MUSIC Corp. advised that in August, its semiconductor operation received customer orders totaling more than $830,000, the highest bookings for a single month during the last two years.

***

THE STOCKHOLDERS of EIB Realty Developers Inc. unanimously voted to note the proposed plan to swap EIBR shares with shares of Export and Industry Bank Inc. The company has likewise noted that its loans to the bank have long been past due and have been reported to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

LAWYER Ariel Salvador filed a manifestation at Branch 138 of the Makati City Regional Trial Court declining its August 15 order appointing him rehabilitation receiver pursuant to stay.

***

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. informed that the Senate approved on third reading the application of Digitel Crossing Inc. for a congressional franchise.

***

THE BOARD of RFM Corp. elected Eleuterio Coronel as its second independent director.

***

BPI Investment Management Inc. informed that Viscal Development Corp., through Viscal Securities and Stock Brokerage Inc. completed the purchase of 16.1 million shares of Filipino Fund Inc. on Sept. 1. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 11, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.891583452	1.000000	55.057000
Japan	Yen	0.007615	0.008541	0.470200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.420025	1.592700	87.689300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114322	0.128223	7.059600
Switzerland	Franc	0.644814	0.723223	39.818500
Canada	Dollar	0.652076	0.731368	40.266900
Singapore	Dollar	0.509622	0.571592	31.470100
Australia	Dollar	0.585682	0.656901	36.167000
Bahrain	Dinar	2.365005	2.652590	146.043600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237756	0.266667	14.681900
Brunei	Dollar	0.50817	0.569963	31.380500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000119	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.022096	0.024783	1.364500
UAE	Dirham	0.242767	0.272287	14.991300
Euro	Euro	1	1.121600	61.751900
Argentina	Peso	0.303777	0.340716	18.758800
Brazil	REAL	0.306913	0.344234	18.952500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134745	0.151130	8.320800
India	Rupee	0.019501	0.021872	1.204200
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234659	0.263193	14.490600
Mexico	Peso	0.081546	0.091462	5.035600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518272	0.581294	32.004300
Norway	Kroner	0.12061	0.135276	7.447900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015465	0.017346	0.955000
South Africa	Rand	0.120566	0.135227	7.445200
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.000855	0.047100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109492	0.122806	6.761300
Syria	Pound	0.021229	0.023810	1.310900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026223	0.029412	1.619300

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Renewable energy dev't too slow, says expert

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PRIVATIZATION of National Power Corp.'s generating assets is seen hampering the development of renewable energy projects, an industry expert said.

Graham R. Stowell, managing director of renewable energy developer Bronzeoak Ltd., said in a paper that privatization provided the motive for the government to limit the entry of alternative energy sources into the traditional fossil fuel generation mix.

Stowell said the government's aim to sell Napocor's fossil fuel power plants and gain full value for taxpayers was also the reason for the very limited share of renewable energy in the mix.

The biomass expert said the local market for renewable energy was expected to stay constrained for up to 10 years after the deregulation.

"These limitations in the (renewable energy's) access to the electricity market can last until there is an urgent need for new generation capacity arising from increased demand and replacement of (retiring power plants)."

For instance, he said there was a potential of generating 400-500 megawatts of electricity from the sugar industry in Negros Island, where the country's 55 percent of sugar milling capacity is located.

Stowell said the sugar industry in Negros could provide the fuel—bagasse, which is the waste material from sugar refining.

Victorias Bioenergy Inc., a local sister firm of Bronzeoak Ltd., is involved in putting up a 55-MW bagasse cogeneration station at the Victoria Milling Co. sugar mill in Negros Occidental.

Merger talks among cable TV operators worry NTC

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has expressed apprehension over the possible consolidation of the big players in the cable television industry, saying such a move could kill competition.

NTC chief Armi Jane Borje has adopted a wait-and-see attitude on the matter, although she said she believed that competition was better for consumers as this would compel players to constantly improve their services. Cable consortium Beyond Cable Holdings Inc., composed of SkyCable Central CATV Inc. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc., late last year signed a memorandum of agreement with No. 2 player Destiny Cable to explore the possibility of consolidation.

However, Destiny announced in early June that merger talks with the cable consortium had collapsed due to "certain critical financial issues" that the two parties failed to resolve.

But SkyCable chair Eugenio Lopez III expressed confidence that Beyond Cable would still be able to convince Destiny to consolidate with it in the future.

"Talks are still ongoing. They never stopped. Yes, our debts are the big deterrent, but we're about to sign a restructuring agreement (with our creditor-banks). I think we have a very good chance of this pushing through," he told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

Borje said the cable firms still had to justify why they wanted to consolidate.

Lopez said cable operators wanted to be able to recover their investments in equipment as well as their programming costs within a shorter period of time.

He said one issue confronting the industry right now was the glut in operators per area.

While acknowledging that these could be true, Borje still maintained that the benefits of consolidation would still have to be proven.

"I've been informed that the cable television industry will be better off if it had fewer players. But we still have to wait and see," she said.

Gov't cancels Sept. 16 sale of T-bonds

THE GOVERNMENT said yesterday it had canceled the sale of P3 billion worth of five-year Treasury bonds scheduled on Sept. 16 following a successful auction of promissory notes this week.

The Bureau of Treasury, which initially hoped to raise P6 billion from the sale of five- and seven-year promissory notes, generated P20.07 billion due to strong demand for the papers.

The government will use the proceeds to help fund its budget deficit. It had rejected two T-bill and three T-bond offers after a July 27 mutiny by renegade soldiers fueled a rise in interest rates and pushed the peso near its all-time low of 55.75 to the dollar.

"In view of the over-subscription of the five- and seven-year peso denominated promissory notes, please be advised that the auction of the five-year T-bond scheduled on Sept. 16 will be canceled," Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said in a note to government securities dealers.

Market appetite for the promissory notes was high because the instrument can be booked by banks as an ordinary loan, which could bring down their bad loan levels, dealers said. The instrument is also exempt from withholding tax.

The Bureau of Treasury on Tuesday awarded P13.37 billion worth of five-year notes—far more than the P3 billion it had hoped to offer—after tenders hit P17.9 billion.

The five-year note fetched a coupon rate of 9.75 percent.

The Treasury on Monday sold P6.7 billion in seven-year notes, which fetched a coupon rate of 10.25 percent. *Reuters*

SBMA urged to speed up port development

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Locators and investors here are urging Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials to speed up the $215-million seaport project that they deemed as the "growth catalyst" in Central Luzon.

According to Ichiro Tsuji, president of Subic Technopark Corp., Japanese locators here recognized the strategic importance of the new port to the overall development of this freeport and the entire region.

"We believe that the project must start and be completed at the soonest time possible. Our strategic competitive advantage lies on how fast we can modernize our port facilities," Tsuji said in a statement.

He said the proponents of the project conducted extensive studies and explored measures that would minimize its impact on the environment.

"We believe that we, stakeholders, can help the proponents in implementing the identified mitigating measures to protect our environment by exercising our oversight functions on this project," Tsuji said.

Sean Chen, corporate vice president of Subic Bay Development and Management Center (SBDMC) Inc., also expressed his support for the seaport modernization, noting that it is an "appropriate way" to realize the potential of this freeport.

"With this project, we see a wide range of benefits. Freight charges will be lowered due to competition and in turn will attract more investments in manufacturing as well as warehousing and transshipment. (The project is also expected to) expand the industrial and commercial base in this freeport," Chen said.

He said the project would attract new investors who would drive down operational costs.

Chen said the project is critical and even vital to the future development of Subic and needs their support.

"As we see that the benefits to be derived from this project will be enormous to Subic Bay freeport and its locators, we cannot emphasize more that the (realization) of this project should not be delayed in any way," Chen said.

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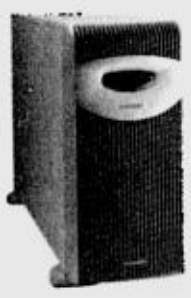

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CASH BOND REQUIREMENT

Local glass makers get relief from import surge

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has ordered the imposition of provisional safeguards that will temporarily protect the local glass manufacturing industry from a surge in glass imports.

The order came in response to the local industry's call for protection.

"We have to provide protection to our local glass industry, which is besieged by the surge in imported glass mirrors and float glass, to prevent irreparable damage," said Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II in a statement.

For framed and unframed glass mirrors, the provisional safeguard measure comes in the form of a cash bond (to be posted by the importers) worth P3,560 per metric ton of imports.

For clear float glass, the provisional safeguard amounts to P2,000 worth of cash bond per metric ton while that for tinted float glass, the amount was set at P2,650 worth per metric ton.

These measures will be implemented within 200 days upon issuance of the DTI order.

Asahi Glass Philippines, the country's sole float glass manufacturer, earlier filed a petition with the DTI for safeguard measures against imported glass, claiming to be battered by cheap imports.

The DTI said it invoked its authority to impose these measures after concluding from its investigation that increased glass imports have indeed caused serious injury to the local glass industry, especially indicated by a decrease in market share, capacity utilization, production, employment, profitability and productivity.

Asahi president Renato Ermita said the firm badly needed the safeguards because it was seriously affected by the low tariff the country imposes on imported glass, which allowed countries like China to "dump" glass products into the Philippines. While the Philippines imposes only 10-percent tariff on imported glass, China imposes a significantly higher 60-percent tariff.

Ermita also said earlier that the company would have to shelve its P500-million expansion plan should the government fail to grant its petition for a safeguard measure. He said these measures would protect Asahi from the huge losses it could incur if it pushes through with its expansion plan amid stiff foreign competition.

Strong consumer spending seen driving banking sector growth

By Elena R. Torrijos

DESPITE global uncertainties and the imposition of the value-added tax, many banks posted higher profits in the first half of this year compared with their results in the same period last year.

Primarily buoyed by trading gains, profits came mainly from higher interest income, reflecting strong consumer loan demand. The banks' second quarter performance was also much better than that of the first quarter.

"First half earnings, on the average, appear to be in line with expectations. If you look at the second quarter, overall, the results were quite good because they showed signs of recovery (from the first quarter). I think that sets the stage for continued earnings improvement for the rest of the year," Gilbert Lopez, senior analyst of foreign brokerage house ING Securities, said.

A number of banks, however, are coming from a low base so the improved economic performance of the country has made their profit performance not so surprising.

Modest growth

While some universal banks posted strong first-half earnings, the country's two leading banks, however, came in with income figures that were the same as last year's level.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., the country's largest lender, reported a profit of P1.561 billion in the first semester of this year, roughly the same as last year's comparative level. This, however, was on track to meeting the bank's full-year profit target of P3 billion.

Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's second largest bank, registered P2.6 billion in profit, also approximately the same as the comparative figure last year. BPI has not given a specific profit growth projection for this year but said it should be better than last year's P5.2 billion.

In terms of second quarter figures, Metrobank of taipan George Ty and Ayala-controlled BPI performed creditably. Metrobank's second quarter profit this year grew 16 percent to P1.096 billion while BPI's rose 9 percent to P1.3 billion against their respective profit figures in the same period last year.

VAT impact

"The total revenue in the second quarter was watered down by the incremental cost of P574 million for the value-added tax for the first semester, thereby ending 7 percent below the previous year. Net interest income suffered a 12-percent decline mainly due to an increase of P487 million in taxes," BPI said in a statement on the release of its earnings figures.

For its part, Metrobank reported that the decline in interest income was offset by earnings from commissions, foreign exchange and securities trading, which almost doubled to P4.156 billion in the second quarter from P2.2 billion the same period last year. This gave the bank the leeway to set aside nearly P2 billion in provisions for probable losses during the quarter. The amount was much more than the P332 million in provisions it allocated for the quarter in 2002.

Expansion

Equitable PCI Bank said its net income in the second quarter almost doubled to P400.8 million from P217.93 million last year, bringing up its first-half net income to P665.10 million or 96.5 percent higher year-on-year.

Equitable PCIBank, largely owned by the Go family and the country's largest state-owned pension funds (the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System), attributed the increase in its first half profit to a 26.6-percent hike in net interest income to P3.17 billion.

He said the positive first-half results stemmed from the bank's moves to expand in high-growth areas and aggressively woo customers, while carefully managing asset quality.

METROBANK, the country's biggest lender, aims to hit P3 billion in profit.

Union Bank of the Philippines of the Aboitiz family and China Banking Corp. of the Dee family emerged as among the best performing banks in terms of first-half profit performance.

Driven by fee-based revenue, particularly treasury or trading gains, both Union Bank and Chinabank recorded P1.7 billion in profit in the first half, putting them well on their way to surpass their 2003 profit target of P2 billion.

"Our sources of revenue, both interest income and non-interest income, moved up strongly and then our expenses moved down, so we opened the jaws of the tiger further," Unionbank president Victor Valdepeñas said.

Similarly, Chinabank reported that its cost-to-income ratio improved, net interest income rose 18 percent to P1.762 billion while fee-based income shot up by an additional P591 million.

GFIs doing well

State-owned Land Bank of the Philippines, the fourth largest bank in the country, cited profitable investments and prudent spending as the biggest boost to its first-half profit which increased 31 percent to P1.090 billion from P833 million recorded during the same period last year.

The Development Bank of the Philippines also reported around P1 billion in profit in the first half. Both government financial institutions are targeting P1.8 billion in profit this year.

Officials of the Yuchengco family's Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. expressed confidence the bank would be able to beat its P1.389-billion profit performance in 2003. In the first half, the bank already rang up profit of P1.05 billion, largely on trading gains.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank of retail magnate Henry Sy disclosed that it registered a net income of P654.9 million for the first six months of this year, 30 percent better than its net income of P503.2 million in the same period last year. The bank attributed the positive first-half results to increases in net interest income and earnings from fee-based businesses although it also had incurred larger operating expenses from higher operating expenses arising from the integration and operation of additional branches acquired from First e-Bank Corp., provisions for expenses and increased taxes. The higher taxes were brought about by the implementation of the expanded-VAT on financial institutions.

Lower operating expenses

On the back of increases in both other income and net interest income, Allied Banking Corp., a medium-sized universal bank controlled by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, more than tripled its profit in the second quarter of this year to P368.56 million from P108.47 million in the same period last year. This brought the bank's first half profit to P585 million or about 200 percent higher than the P195.751 million recorded in the comparative period last year.

Security Bank Corp., a medium-sized commercial bank controlled by businessman Frederick Dy, reported a 76-percent jump in earnings in the first half of this year to P475 million from P269 million in the same period last year. Security Bank president and chief executive Rafael Simpao Jr. credited the bank's first-half performance to substantial trading gains, reduced operating expenses and efforts to generate new revenue streams.

Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp., the local unit of Chinatrust of Taiwan, announced that its net profit for the first half of the year climbed 8 percent to P334 million on the back of higher interest earnings on loans and strong trading gains.

Turnaround

Philippine National Bank, the country's fourth biggest lender, posted a net profit of P91 million in the first half of the year, a sharp turnaround from the P1.4-billion net loss recorded a year ago.

PNB, which is aiming to be back in the black this year after five straight years of financial hemorrhage, attributed the turnaround to the expansion in the bank's interest and fee-based income as complemented by reduction in expenses. The first-semester performance was ahead of PNB's best-case scenario for the full year of P100 million in net profit against the P1.95-billion loss in 2002.

Philippine Savings Bank, the thrift bank unit of Metrobank, said it had registered a 23.3- percent increase in net income in the first half of this year to P177.6 million compared with the P144 million it posted in the same period last year.

"The favorable operating result was propelled by gains on securities trading and fee income and increased revenue on loans as the bank pushes sales to expand market coverage in the consumer lending business," PSBank president Pascual Garcia III said.

Garcia added that the bank's initiatives to improve processes through the aid of technology likewise contributed in managing operating costs despite growing business volume.

In general, bankers have noted that competition in the Philippine banking sector had become more fierce in the last two years amid low inflation that brought down interest rates, which in turn, led to margins lower than the pre-Asian crisis levels.

For revenue growth, banks are seen relying more on continued consumer spending and significant trading gains.

Bankers have said that corporate loan demand would likely remain sluggish. All bankers interviewed so far have invariably pinned their hopes on consumer banking to drive business growth as trading gains are expected to eventually decline.

GOINGS ON

FRANCHISE GURU IN TOWN
CHARLES Weeks, a noted international franchise business development consultant, delivered the keynote address at the 11th Philippine International Franchise Conference yesterday at the PICC. The conference ends today. Weeks was also the lecturer of the 2-day Certified Franchise Executive Program at the AIM last Sept. 9 to 10. With Weeks are Philippine Franchise Association officers led by chair Samie Lim , Manuel Siggaoat and Alegria Limjoco, president.

Insular Life's new EVP/COO

ONGSINGCO

INSULAR Life chair and president Vicente R. Ayllon has announced the promotion of Mayo Jose B. Ongsingco to executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Ongsingco has been Insular Life's senior vice president and chief financial and investment officer since August last year. Prior to that, he was president of Insular Life subsidiaries I-Care and Insular Investment and Trust. Corp., where he remains a board director. He is also vice chair of Insular Savings Bank and director of other Insular Life subsidiaries and affiliates such as Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Insular Life Foundation and Insular Life Property Holdings

His work experience also includes stints as country officer of a leading international investment bank and senior executive of the investment house subsidiary of one of the country's leading universal banks.

He graduated from the De La Salle University with degrees in economics and accounting, magna cum laude.

Importance of women in agriculture

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

I ASKED a woman who was particularly proud she was a female if she thought women were smarter than men. She replied, "Not necessarily. But women are wiser than men, not because they know more, but because they understand more." She made it clear that in these complex times, understanding is more important than being smart or knowledgeable.

Not long after, I talked to then Sen. Leticia Shahani, who was about to address the 1995 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. She said that the 1930s was the Industrial Age, when men took the leadership because muscle was required. But for the late 1990s and the new millennium, which would be known as the Information Age, a different set of characteristics would be required. Among those she cited were thoroughness, flexibility, sensitivity, attention to detail and the ability to do many things at the same time. She suggested that women were better than men in these areas, and therefore more suited to take the leadership during the Information Age. If only they were given the chance, as Sen. Shahani told the Beijing Conference the following day.

In recent years, we have seen women getting higher university entrance scores than men. And just as some American universities are limiting the number of students of Asian descent because of their higher scores compared with their Caucasian and Black counterparts, so too are some Philippine universities limiting women because of their higher scores lest too many men be displaced.

It is clear that women have a very important role in development. But are women in agriculture being given this chance, as Sen. Shahani would say?

Women in agriculture

According to a publication issued prior to 1997 by the United Nations-affiliated Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "rural women are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing areas. Yet, despite their contribution to global food security, women farmers are frequently underestimated and overlooked in development strategies."

For the period 1997-2003, the FAO published "An Analysis Based on Initial and Periodic Reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women." The report concluded that the potential improvement in this area was far from being realized. It stated that rural women continued to be overlooked "since their work in agriculture is regarded as an extension of their domestic chores and not as an economic activity."

Critical role

In agriculture, women play a critical role in three areas: food and nutrition, natural resource utilization, and agricultural support systems. In food and nutrition, studies have shown that women often play a greater role than men in ensuring good nutrition, food safety and quality, and food processing and marketing. In natural resource management, women frequently assume the major responsibility for the selection, improvement and adaptation of plant varieties, as well as management of small livestock. More than the men, they have specialized knowledge of wild plants used for food, fodder, and medicine.

In agricultural support systems, while men do the large-scale cash cropping, it is the women who take care of household food production, small-scale cultivation of cash crops such as vegetables, small livestock, post-harvest facilities, food processing and marketing.

Women should therefore have equal access to support services such as credit, technology, education, extension, marketing services and rural organizations. Given their critical role, any agricultural development strategy should address women's limited access to these productive resources. "However," as the FAO reports, "the agricultural extension system has often failed to reach female farmers, not only because extension workers have addressed the male head of household, but also because women often fail to find the time to participate in extension activities and demonstrations due to their hefty total workload and /or inappropriate venue or timing of extension service delivery."

Analysis

Given the above findings, noting in particular the women's strategic position as well as their comparative advantage over men in certain areas (e.g., for credit, women have a consistently higher repayment rate than men), it is crucial that more attention, resources and support be given to them. To ensure this happens, it is suggested that more women be placed in positions where they can influence agriculture policies, programs, and extension services.

Today, the senior management of the Department of Agriculture (DA) is predominantly male. The secretary and the three undersecretaries are all men. Of the 16 DA regional executive directors, all are men except one (i.e., Dr. Fe Laysa of Bicol). Of the 16 Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Councils, all the chairpersons are again men.

The DA is currently addressing women concerns, but it is suggested that more women be given leadership positions for an even better response to these concerns. In the meantime, a high level official with accountability appointed at the national, regional and provincial levels, can be tasked with specific targets for agricultural women empowerment. Finding out the comparative advantages of women over men, and vice versa, in specific areas will guide the identification and allocation of scarce resources for site-specific development programs and extension services. We will then not only know the importance of women in agriculture. More importantly, we will understand why women must be harnessed as a potent empowered transformational resource in partnership with men for a new Agriculture Age for our nation.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of the DA and the DTI, and chair/Secretary of the Presidential Flagship Programs and Project. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

CLASHES, PROTESTS

WTO first day marked by appeals for trade unity

CANCUN, Mexico—Day one of a WTO conference here was marred Wednesday by the suicide of a South Korean protester and violent clashes at demonstrations against the five-day gathering called to spur momentum toward a new global trade accord.

Lee Kyang-hae, 55, who headed South Korea's Federation of Farmers and Fishermen, stabbed himself in protest against the WTO, "which destroys Korea's economy and its agriculture," a fellow-militant said.

"His death is not a personal accident but reflects the desperate fighting of 3.5 million Korean farmers," said Song Nan-sou, president of the Farmers Management Association, one of several South Korean groups taking part in demonstrations at this upmarket Mexican seaside resort.

"We all regret this sad incident," World Trade Organization Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi said after Lee died in a Cancun hospital.

"This self-inflicted wound has resulted in his death, so we do regret it," he said.

Lee stabbed himself on the sidelines of a protest by several thousand people that ended in clashes between police and a few hundred demonstrators.

Several people were injured as police used teargas and batons to disperse militants who hurled rocks and other projectiles at security forces and tried to force their way through a barrier blocking the route from downtown Cancun to the conference venue.

World trade ministers early in the day went behind police barricades to begin what by all accounts will be an arduous five days and nights of talks aimed at breaking a deadlock in the latest round of trade liberalization negotiations.

But the gathering had barely gotten under way when Supachai's opening remarks were interrupted by chants and jeers from some 30 protesters who accuse the WTO of being too deferential to big business and indifferent to the plight of the poor.

Even without the protesters, the WTO faces daunting internal challenges, with delegations divided on how to go about getting rid of trade-distorting subsidies to farmers and removing trade barriers to exports from the poorest nations.

They are working against a Jan. 1, 2005 deadline to complete the round, agreed at the previous WTO ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar in 2001.

"We face a choice here in Cancun: either we continue to strengthen the multilateral trading system and the world economy or we flounder and add to the prevailing uncertainties," Supachai said.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick appealed for common ground between importers and exporters.

"One of the most important ideas of our time is to try to employ the power of trade to overcome poverty, to spur development and to create opportunity," he told the conference.

"But to be effective, openness must be a two-way street. Trade is about imports as well as about exports . . . Trade can lead to growth and development for those countries that are willing to open their economies and open their societies."

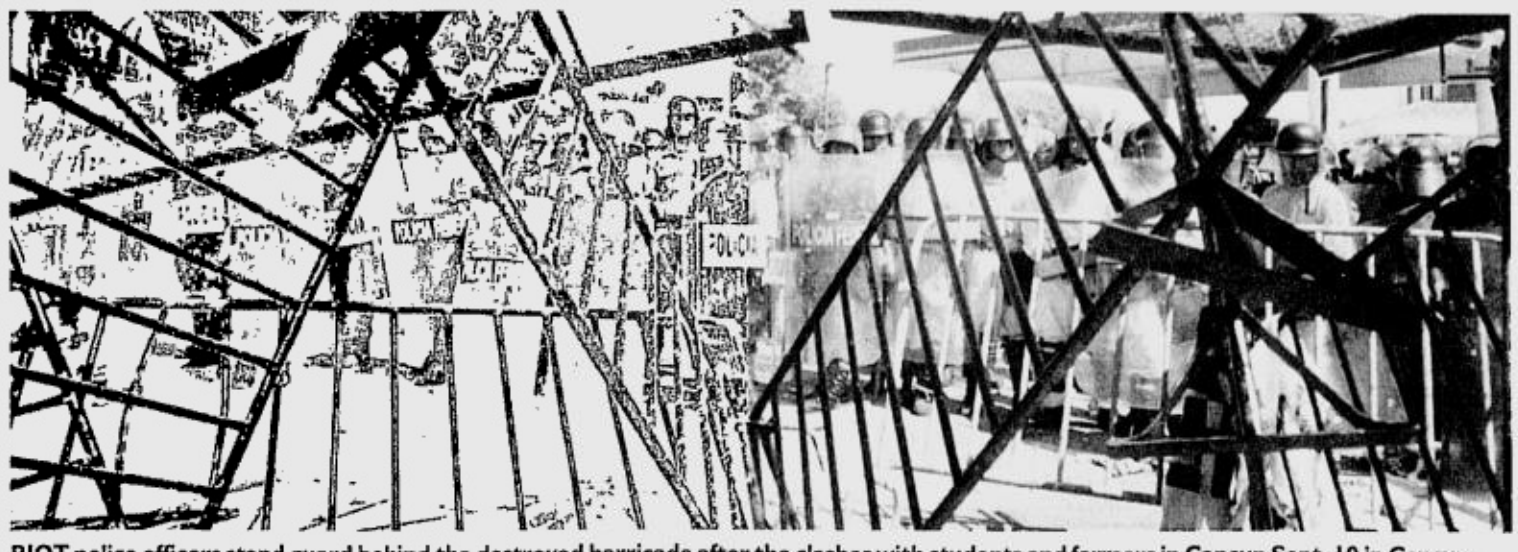
European Trade Commissioner Patrick Lamy said the EU was ready "to go the extra mile to bring us to agreement."

He stressed that the key overall goal was "the integration of developing countries into the world economy," though he insisted the global trade group was not divided between poor and rich nations.

"It would be a great mistake to see the situation this way and at odds with reality," he said in remarks to the conference.

But Indian Commerce Minister Arun Jaitly criticized a text submitted for discussion at the meeting, saying "it does not accommodate the legitimate aspirations of developing countries and instead seeks to project and advance the views of certain developed countries."

Nonetheless, a group of 21 developing nations scored what Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim described as "the first battle" when its controversial proposal calling for an end to government assistance to agricultural exporters was accepted to be discussed "on an equal footing" with the WTO text. *AFP*



RIOT police officers stand guard behind the destroyed barricade after the clashes with students and farmers in Cancun Sept. 10 in Cancun, Mexico. Farmers and students clashed with police Wednesday as they tried to storm past barricades and marched to the World Trade Organization meeting site. One protester fatally stabbed himself to show his anger over WTO policy. AP

Enron exec sentenced

WASHINGTON—Former Enron treasurer Ben Glisan was sentenced to five years in prison Wednesday after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit fraud, becoming the first Enron official to go to jail over the accounting scandal.

Glisan also agreed to forfeit $1.3 million to the government, including monies he made off improper investments in side-deals, in federal court in Houston, Texas.

The plea comes as federal prosecutors are reportedly trying to intensify their probe and decide whether they have sufficient evidence to charge two former Enron chief executives, Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling.

Leslie Caldwell, the government's Enron task force chief, declined to comment on other aspects of the probe but said the plea agreement with Glisan "sends a strong message to other people."

Enron executives "will see that someone is now actually, physically sitting in prison as a result of what they did at Enron," she told reporters.

The 37-year-old Glisan, who served as treasurer from spring of 2000 until he was fired in October 2001, left court in shackles and was transported to federal prison.

The Houston-based energy trading company, once the seventh-largest US company, collapsed in December 2001, after the disclosure of myriad accounting schemes that hid billions of dollars in debts.

Its collapse ranked as the largest US bankruptcy case ever at the time.

According to prosecutors, Glisan was one of the "masterminds" of the accounting strategy the Enron braintrust used to misrepresent its financial accounts, using off-balance sheet partnerships to hide debt and inflate the value of its assets.

In his plea, Glisan acknowledged a role in a scheme using an investment unit called LJM run by former chief financial officer, Andrew Fastow, and an off-books entity called Talon to avoid reporting investment losses on its balance sheet.

Glisan admitted that he and others at Enron deliberately structured Talon in a way that appeared to comply with, but in fact violated, applicable accounting rules.

Prosecutors also said that Glisan acted improperly by investing in an Enron-related partnership called Southampton. *AFP*

FORMER Enron treasurer Ben Glisan is led in chains from the federal courthouse in Houston Wednesday, Sept. 10, after being sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy. AP

Argentina secures vital three-year IMF aid pact

BUENOS AIRES/WASHINGTON—Argentina has clinched a new three-year International Monetary Fund aid deal, the government said on Wednesday, seen as vital to help the economy recover from its worst ever economic crisis.

The aid deal to refinance $21 billion worth of debt with multilateral lenders comes just a day after Argentina defaulted on a $3 billion debt to the fund and after months of tortuous negotiations.

It also paves the way for Argentina to get down to restructuring $90 billion worth of defaulted debt held by creditors from Milan to Tokyo—and repair credit lines severed after last year's record sovereign default made it a financial pariah.

"The government's letter of intent has been accepted," President Nestor Kirchner told a news conference. "The amount to be refinanced is $21 billion overall, of which $12.3 billion is with the IMF."

The agreement did not include either a timetable for utility tariff increases or compensation for banks that lost billions of dollars due to last year's devaluation—both of which the IMF had long been demanding in return for aid.

Kirchner said the agreement includes a 3-percent budget surplus target for 2004—a figure considered low and an IMF cave-in by many analysts. The surplus determines how much the government will have on hand to pay its privately held debt.

The government will repay the IMF the defaulted $3 billion debt before the lender's board meets on Sept 19-20, Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna said.

The default cast Argentina into IMF debtor ignominy along with the likes of Liberia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

In Washington, IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler said Argentina had to clear the arrears with the fund before he recommends approval of a new loan agreement.

The government chose to default rather than bow to demands for budget cuts and economic reforms and shell out about a quarter of its international reserves. It was the biggest single missed payment on record with the IMF, though many analysts had played down any immediate impact, confident an aid deal was imminent. *Reuters*

3Com to cut 1,000 jobs

CHICAGO—3Com Corp. said on Wednesday it planned to cut about 1,000 jobs, or almost a third of its work force, and close its only remaining manufacturing plant as it works to counter weak technology spending.

The company, which makes gear used by corporations to direct Internet traffic, said it will close its plant in Dublin, Ireland.

3Com, whose shares fell almost 5 percent, said it will shift its manufacturing, distribution and related activities to contract manufacturers Flextronics International Ltd. and Jabil Circuit Inc., all of which will take about six months.

"It really paints a picture of an industry that perhaps may have bottomed out, but is certainly not in any type of meaningful upward trend because of constraints in the capital spending environment," said Blaylock & Partners analyst Gabriel Lowy, who follows the stock but does not have a rating on it.

However, 3Com Chief Financial Officer Mark Slaven said these plans have been in place for a while and investors should not draw conclusions about the current market demand.

"These steps that we're taking now are part of a strategic plan that's been in the works for months, so there's no bearing on current market conditions, if you're trying to read into that," he told Reuters in a telephone interview.

He declined to comment directly on the overall market, but pointed to comments made recently by its larger rival Cisco Systems Inc. and other technology companies. Cisco said last week that its August sales were better than expected, raising hopes that corporate demand is slowly improving after years of tough economic conditions that caused customers to put off major technology purchases.

3Com employed 3,300 people at the end of May, and said in an August regulatory filing that it intended to reduce its work force by about 10 percent.

The Marlborough, Massachusetts-based company declined to say how many of those affected are employed in Dublin, the last of several plants 3Com has closed or sold over the last five years.

"Given the size of our business, the mix of our business and where we're taking the company going forward, we concluded that the Dublin facility would not be the most competitive alternative for us," Slaven said.

3Com said Flextronics will also assume responsibility for global distribution from its regional hubs. 3Com also will realign its product development and supply chain businesses as part of a plan to reduce expenses.

The company, which like others had been struggling with a decline in demand due to sluggish global economies, posted a wider quarterly loss in June and said it expected "no material improvement in the marketplace" in the current quarter, adding that SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, had hurt sales in Hong Kong and Singapore. *Reuters*

EMI launches $200-M bond

LONDON—Britain's EMI Group Plc, the world's third largest music company, took another step in refinancing its debt on Thursday when it launched a $200-million convertible bond.

EMI, home to the Rolling Stones, Norah Jones and Coldplay, said it was selling seven-year bonds convertible into new EMI ordinary shares as part of an ongoing plan to reposition and extend the maturity of its debt.

"The proceeds of today's issue will be used to refinance existing debt, part of which was used to fund certain acquisitions," EMI Chief Financial Officer Roger Faxon said in a statement.

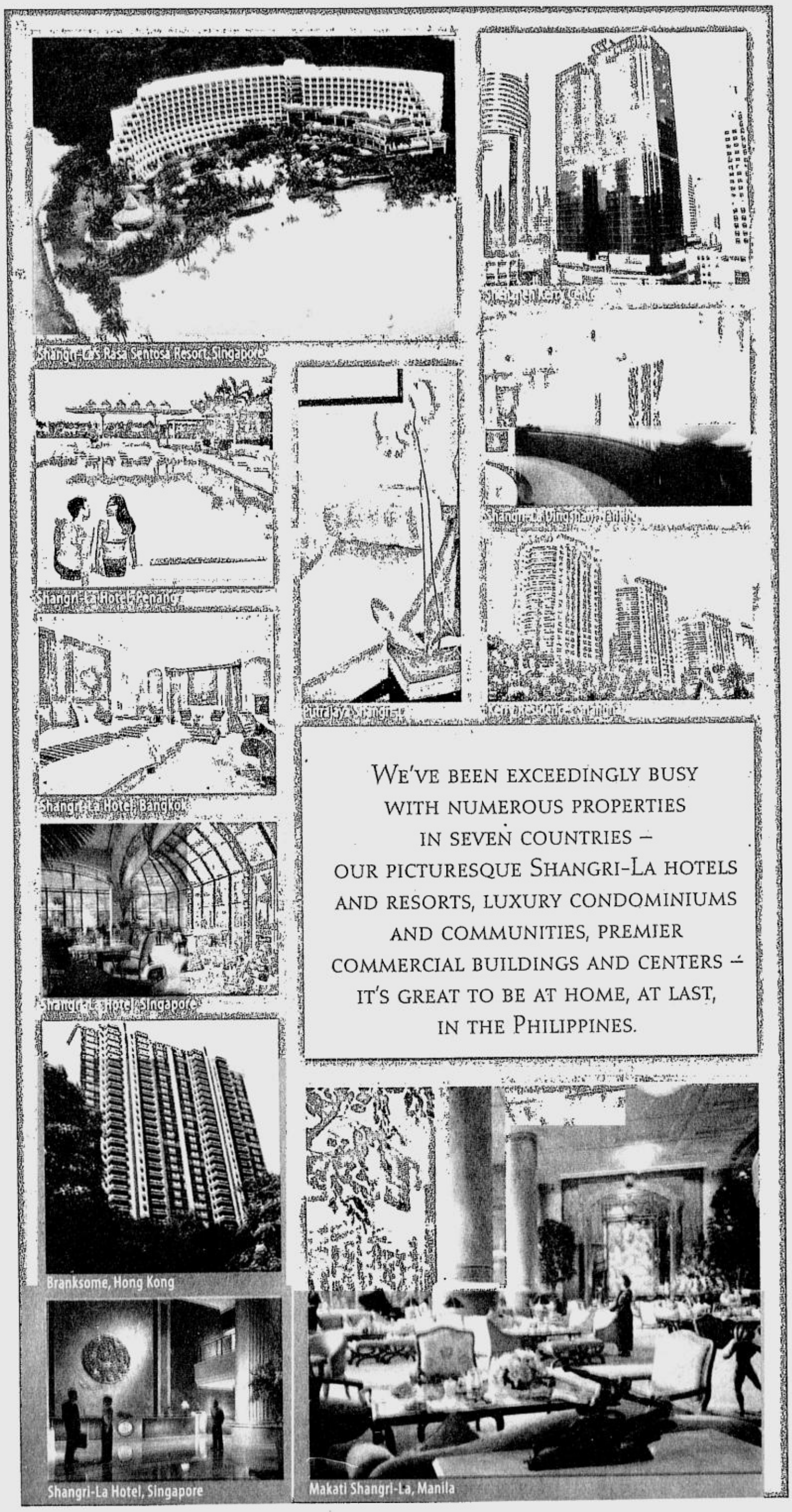
Standard & Poor's rates EMI's debt at BBB-, the lowest investment grade rating, while Moody's Investors Service in March downgraded its rating to Ba1, a speculative or so-called "junk" rating, from investment grade.

EMI is currently at the center of speculation over another round of potential consolidation in the hard-hit music industry.

The British-based music company has been watching closely as rivals Warner Music and BMG hold talks over a potential recorded music joint venture, sparking rumors that EMI may attempt to hold its own talks with Warner Music.

The bonds, issued at par, will carry a semi-annual coupon, which has been indicated at 5.25-5.75 percent.

The conversion price will be set at a premium of 35-40 percent over EMI's share price at time of pricing, EMI said in its statement. *Reuters*



Tape hits global stocks on Sept. 11 anniversary

SINGAPORE—Japanese stocks tumbled and bonds firmed on Thursday, shadowing US markets, as a video showing al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden rattled investors on the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

European stocks were also expected to fall after the tape, aired by Al Jazeera television, and a slide in semiconductor issues dragged US shares lower.

But the dollar was unfazed by the broadcast, in which a top al-Qaida leader urged attacks on American troops, and edged higher on wariness over Japanese intervention to weaken the yen.

Some Asian stock markets also gained despite the fall on Wall Street, helped by easing worries over a new SARS case.

Gold was little changed after benefiting recently from its status as a safe investment in troubled times, while oil rose.

Japanese shares were the biggest losers in Asia, nursing their heaviest falls in two months as semiconductor stocks mirrored a tumble in their US peers.

"New York fell, foreigners are selling and Tokyo was overheated and due to correct anyway," said Haruki Takahashi, head of equity dealing at UFJ Tsubasa Securities.

The Nikkei average closed down 2.9 percent at 10,546.33, with chip equipment makers Tokyo Electron and Advantest falling around six percent.

An MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia Pacific was flat after hitting a three-year high on Tuesday.

Hong Kong ended morning trade up 0.4 percent and Singapore rose 0.6 percent as investors decided a single case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Singapore did not herald a major new outbreak of the deadly disease.

Australia fell 0.7 percent. South Korea and Taiwan were closed for holidays, meaning some of the region's biggest chip makers were untraded.

In London, financial bookmakers were expecting Britain's FTSE 100 index to open 16-20 points weaker, with Germany's DAX index seen opening down 15 points and France's CAC-40 expected to start 15 points lower. *Reuters*

Asian bond trade muted

HONG KONG—Asian dollar bond trade was muted on Thursday, with most activity centered on the Hong Kong Airport Authority's newly issued bond that was priced in London overnight, although news that Singapore Power plans a $2-billion global bond stirred the market.

The second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States also cast a pall over the market, especially after the release of a new videotape of Osama bin Laden, widely blamed for the attacks and who continues to elude capture.

State-owned Singapore Power Ltd. plans to issue the bonds as part of moves to sell off its power transmission and distribution unit, banking sources said on Thursday.

DBS Bank and Morgan Stanley are bookrunners for the deal, the sources said.

Fitch Ratings agency rated the group's foreign currency senior unsecured debt at AA+ in March with a stable outlook.

Standard & Poor's reaffirmed its AAA rating for the company in September last year, also with a stable outlook.

Singapore spreads have been widening for the past week, in part due to the confirmation of the reemergence of SARS in the island state.

The Hong Kong Airport Authority's 10-year bond was priced at 75 basis points (bps) over Treasuries, five bps tighter than the initial price guidance, and was increased to $350 million from $300 million after attracting an order book of $1.6 billion.

The bond due in 2013 was trading at 75/74 bps over.

Other liquid Hong Kong names, such as Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. and PCCW Ltd., were little changed.

Hutchison '13s were unchanged at 204/202 bps over, while PCCW '13s were trading at 219/215 bps over—one to two bps wider.

"There's no great change today, the market is around the same level," said a Hong Kong-based trader.

In the Philippines, where bonds are normally traded in price rather than spread terms, prices were playing catch-up with gains in US Treasury prices following a successful five-year treasury auction on Wednesday.

A trader in Manila said that there was little reaction to talk of new sovereign issuance.

"The new issue is only going to be for a small amount, it's only $250 million," said the trader. *Reuters*

Luxury car sales boom in Singapore

SINGAPORE—Luxury car sales are booming in Singapore despite near record unemployment and a stagnant economy in the city-state, a report said Thursday.

The Straits Times said sales of luxury cars are expected to be as much as 80 percent higher than last year, with some vehicles selling for more than 270,000 Singapore dollars ($154,400) each.

Based on Motor Traders Association sales figures to August, the report said 4,300 Mercedes, 1,700 BMWs, 1,400 Lexus, 1,200 Volvos and 400 Jaguars are expected to be sold this year.

This would translate to about two billion Singapore dollars from 9,670 luxury cars at an average of about 200,000 dollars each.

The car boom comes as Singapore is faced with GDP growth of between zero to one percent this year.

The Singaporean economy is still struggling to recover from the impact of slow export markets and the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) earlier this year.

Personal bankruptcies are also on the rise and the unemployment rate is almost five percent, disastrous figures in a nation which has been accustomed to virtually full employment.

Chris Firth, chief executive of wealth management company dollarDex, said in the report that people making these purchases were taking advantage of competitive prices during the downturn.

"Those in secure jobs . . see this as an opportunity to buy at bargain prices," Firth said.

"Affordability is actually better than ever for for those who have no job worries, a pile of cash, or have already retired." *AFP*

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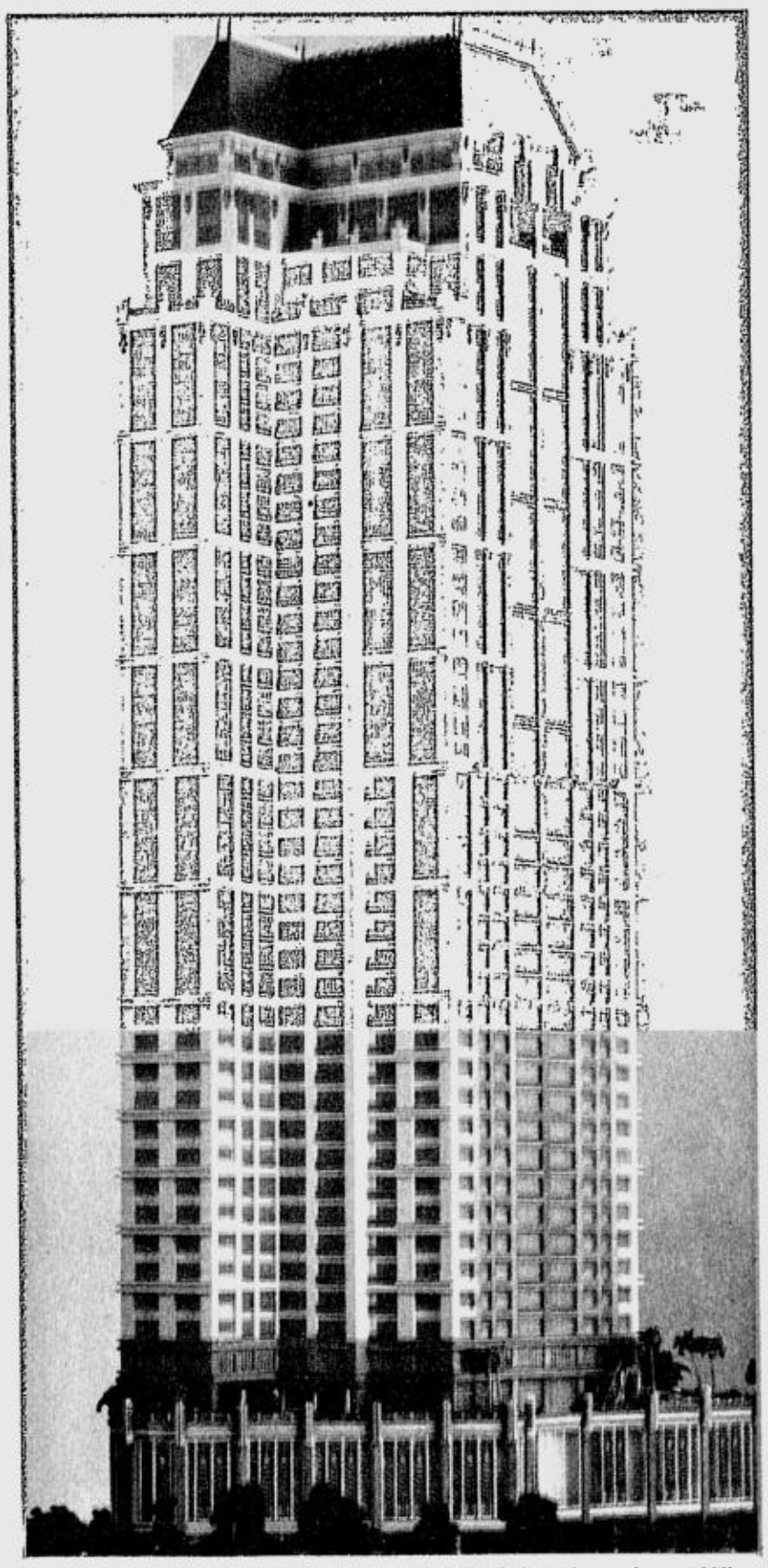

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

What to watch out for in a franchise

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WE have seen it happen before. Investors put their hard-earned money into a franchise, only to see their funds go down the drain because the franchisor got greedy and did not leave enough room for the franchisee to earn a decent profit.

Then there are entrepreneurs who painstakingly built up their business, only to have their "secrets" stolen by companies posing as franchise consultants.

Ma. Alegria Limjoco, president of the Philippine Franchise Association, says those interested in getting a franchise and companies interested in franchising their operations can avoid these pitfalls by consulting with reputable associations and visiting trade shows.

For those who are interested in getting a franchise, Limjoco says it pays to check if the company offering the franchise has a track record and has proven its success.

She says there are many companies who join the franchising bandwagon even if they only have one store in operation and do not even have their financial or operational controls in place.

These firms, she says, are enamored by the fact that people are interested in franchising because of its high success factor.

The franchising industry is one of the bright spots in the Philippine economy, posting a 14-percent growth over last year.

There are about 800 franchises operating in the country, of which 60 percent are homegrown. Although smaller in number compared to other countries in the region, the number of franchises has doubled over the past few years and continues to grow despite the slowdown in the economy.

"I would also recommend that those interested in getting a franchise ask the PFA if the franchising firm is legitimate or to go to mall administrations. They also know the reputable ones," Limjoco says.

She adds that it is also helpful to ask other franchisees, see if they are happy with their franchise contract with the company.

"One proof that a company is offering a good franchise contract is if a franchisee gets more than one. We have examples, for instance, of franchisees who have as many as 10 contracts with the same company," Limjoco says.

Getting more than one contract means the franchisee gets enough profit from its operations.

Limjoco, who is also associated with the local subsidiary of Francorp USA, says they stress profitability in the franchise contracts with their clients.

"People shouldn't be greedy. We say that it can't be only the franchisor who will make money. The franchisees should make money too, otherwise the business would not grow," Limjoco says.

On the other hand, those who have a legitimate business and want to take the franchising route to expanding their business should be wary of fly-by-night consultants.

Like the franchisees, prospective franchisors should also ask companies that have successfully franchised their business about their consultants.

"Others charge very low fees but there has been one case where the consultant asked for all the recipes of the company asking to be franchised. They discovered later that another company was set up and sold exactly the same food," Limjoco says.

She stresses that propriety information is for the franchisor to keep, the consultants' role is simply to put the operations or financial controls in place, as well as draw up a franchise contract that would be beneficial to both the franchisor and the franchisee.

"What is important is for the consulting firm to make sure that the company's structure is good because if the foundation is not good, the growth cannot be supported and the business cannot be replicated," she says.

Limjoco says not all entrepreneurs can make good franchisees because of the rigid discipline involved in following the operations manuals provided by the franchisor.

"There are standard procedures to be followed, so if an entrepreneur cannot follow and would insist on doing things his own way, then maybe it would be better for him to put up his own company and perhaps be a franchisor himself," Limjoco says.

The PFA has come up with a number of qualifications to determine if a company could be a candidate for franchising.

Among these is size and longevity. Has the business been in operation long enough and is it large enough to provide a level of earnings that would make it an attractive investment for others?

The company should also be making money consistently. Another factor is teachability. Can other people be taught to run a similar business in the same way to make it successful.

And finally, is the franchise affordable enough, and that enough remains from the sale to pay for the initial investment?

If a firm meets most of these criteria, then that company may be ripe for franchising, and entrepreneurs are just waiting in the wings for the next success story.

The PFA estimates that the franchising industry would continue to flourish over the next 10 years as more homegrown companies explore opportunities abroad.

Local firms such as Bench, Penshoppe, Goldilocks, Crystal Clear, and Island Souvenirs have already penetrated foreign markets and there is no reason why other firms cannot follow.

Three sisters set up Japanese food and cafe

ON Friday, the 12th of September, the 11th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (PIFCE) will open at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

Joining the expo is Ichizen Japanese Food and Café, a Japanese restaurant in the university area, which popularized affordable Japanese food among students and young adults in the area. Ichizen will formally launch its franchise program at the expo.

Ichizen was born out of the common love and passion for quality Japanese food of sisters Ester, Teresa and Cristina Zapata and their belief that good food doesn't always have to be expensive.

"Eating out is a habit we enjoy most, for we practically eat out just for the fun of trying out new food. From there, we recognized and appreciated Japanese food, although aware that quality Japanese food is really expensive," they say.

"In one of our usual conversations, we talked about the idea of opening our own restaurant. We told ourselves why not do something we love and at the same time allow quality bonding time for us sisters, while earning. We thought it was a good idea since we love serving and entertaining people, so from there we decided to put up a Japanese restaurant that will provide a choice for people who want Japanese food at affordable prices," they muse.

They invested in a 20-square-meter area along San Rafael Street in Quiapo, Manila, and designed the whole concept. They did everything from purchasing kitchen equipment and store needs, and going to wet markets in the wee hours of the morning.

They opened their first store in February 2002. Ester, who is Ichizens's chief operating officer, maintains: "We don't have any idea how everything will turn out, since our market (students and yuppies in the university area) are not familiar with the kind of food we are selling. Eventually, we put out photos of our food and later on students and residents from the area became curious, tried our cuisine and liked it!"

According to them, the first Ichizen branch generated an overwhelming response to a point that they themselves acted as the crew, cashier and assistant cooks during peak hours. They eventually opened another 100-square-meter branch with a seating capacity of 80, in P. Noval, Sampaloc beside the University of Santo. Tomas.

Ester points out that to make Ichizen more competitive, they opened their own commissary and training center in Pasig City. They feel this would be line with their commitment of providing quality and consistency in the taste and serving sizes of their food products as well as in food production and delivery.

"Inquiries as to whether the store or the business concept is for franchise took us by surprise, and from then on, we realized the business has really grown. With the need to improve the overall store concept, as well as the food, operational and marketing aspects, came our decision to forego full ownership of the business and invite new investors to form part of the corporation. Two good business partners came in and from there Blessingzs Food Corp., which now owns and manages Ichizen, was established," the Zapatas explained.

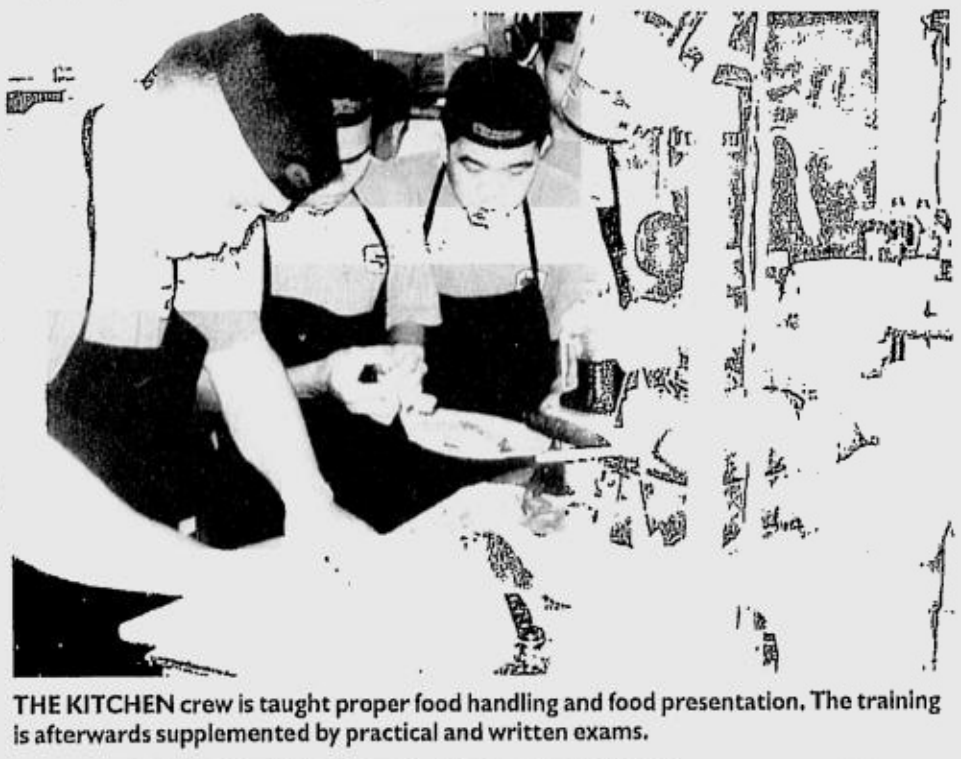
One day, they came across an ad for a seminar entitled "Are you sitting on a gold mine?" and out of curiosity the sisters decided to attend the seminar. There they learned a lot about franchising and hired Francorp, a world leader in franchise development and consulting, to be their consultant.

They focused on product development, streamlined their food line to offer few yet tasty and more affordable choices. Little by little, implemented standards in food quality and customer service.

Ichizen joined last year's "Incubation Center" at the 10 PIFCE held at the World Trade Center, where they had inquiries on their franchise program. Most of those interested in their franchise couldn't believe that Ichizen was a home-grown Filipino concept.

"All the inquiries we had during the four-day affair assured us that we were on the right track. We created quite a stir among the visitors, which resulted to about 380 interested parties who wanted to do business with us. Simultaneously, we presented and sold our concept to SM and Robinson's malls and it will no longer be for long that people will start seeing and enjoying Ichizen's fares in these areas," the Zapatas enthuse.

They will formally launch their franchise program at the 11th PIFCE. Ichizen Franchise Food Corp. hopes to spur the growth of the Japanese food industry in the country.



THE KITCHEN crew is taught proper food handling and food presentation. The training is afterwards supplemented by practical and written exams.

Franchisees talk a year after

AT THE heels of a military uprising, the plunging peso, and other problems confronting the country, a group of entrepreneurs are undaunted and remain optimistic after one year as Plains & Prints franchisees.

Dra. Gigi Austria-Casipit and Rowena Ocampo own a Plains & Prints outlet at the CSI City Mall in the center of Dagupan City in Pangasinan. The partners were loyal customers of P&P long before the franchise program was launched.

Says Casipit, "My partner and I love to dress up and at the time we were looking for a business opportunity, P&P started their expansion program and offered franchising, so we decided to go for it."

Casipit and Ocampo believe that buying a franchise is a good way to start a business because the franchisor has a tried and tested formula one can rely on especially if the product has been in the market for sometime. Product or name recall will not be hard for the target market since it has an established clientele already. To new entrepreneurs like them, the support that the franchisor gives to the franchisee is also an essential part in the decision to buy a franchise.

In the case of Plains & Prints SM Cebu, owned by Joyce Fernan and Mona Fernan-Quioge, the franchise was offered to them through a cousin who was the owner's friend. For these ladies, their decision was made after meeting the franchisors, Erickson and Roxanne Farillas.

"We proceeded with the franchise after talking to them, and of course after seeing the product. We liked the product, the styles and the materials. The Plains & Prints Plus Collection too, was a strong deciding factor."

PLAINS & Prints got Gretchen Barretto as endorser to help push sales

Emphasizing on the importance of the franchisor's vision, the P&P SM Cebu owners lauded the hands-on management of Erickson and Roxanne. They also believe that the company credo to produce only high quality products and styles in limited quantity would work well with the market in Cebu.

In Davao City, six partners Christine Go, Leigh Go, Judy Hao, Buny Lim, J. Vega, and Pacita Go opted to buy a franchise because having an established brand with the name recall makes advertising and creating awareness easier. Plains & Prints, as a brand caters to college students, young working women and homemakers.

While the P&P market share the same preference for classic and stylish clothes, they also have other characteristics. Says Joyce Fernan, "the Cebu market is much smaller than the Manila market. In effect, we cannot have too many of the same styles. People are always concerned of seeing someone else wearing the same clothes. Plains & Prints credo of producing styles in limited quantity addresses this concern."

Joyce adds, "One great thing about the Cebu market is that once you have proven to them the product quality, they become loyal customers."

According to Christine Go, the Davao market looks at how the products are presented and wears them.

In the North, because of the hot weather, customers shy away from long sleeves and thick fabrics. Plain whites or with prints in short sleeves styles are always best sellers. Plain black blouses are a no-no.

Casipit proudly claims that their store is unique from others in the area because they also carry the Plains & Prints Plus line of clothes. "Hence, our customers are varied from ages 10 to 70 and sizes XS of the regular line all the way up to XL in plus sizes.

As one of the franchisee's tells it, finding your real interest, knowing what you want pays off in the end. You must be able to appreciate the business of the product you choose and do your homework before plunging into the venture. Above all, as franchisees, you must be willing to learn every aspect of running the business. As it is, even if you have a franchise, it will not run by itself. Trying to get to know the franchisers very well means you know who you are dealing with. To understand the vision, credo or objective of the franchiser and accept it will lay the foundation of a good business relationship.

Interested franchisees may contact Pauline Gomez at Tel. Nos. 372-6190 to 92.

Franchising pizza perfection

THE AVERAGE Filipino, retired from the corporate world or perhaps still active in the workforce, usually dreams of owning his own business.

Unfortunately, however, most lack the entrepreneurial skill to make this dream a reality.

Getting a franchise may be the answer to these dreamers. Franchising is the right given the "dreamer"—the potential franchisee—to put up a branch, a restaurant, if you will, of an already established business, say Shakey's and to operate this on his own.

With some supervision and marketing support from the franchiser, the franchisee would have a better chance of success than if he were to do it on his own.

International Family Food Services Inc. (IFFSI) holds the Philippine franchise for Shakey's. A market leader since 1975, Shakey's once again welcomes franchisees in Metro Manila and the provincial areas. It has 34 franchise stores nationwide.

The moment franchisees were accepted as a member of the Shakey's family, support is provided in all aspects of the business—strategic planning, site selection, design and construction of the restaurant and technical support.

Likewise, franchisees are given guidance in standardized financial systems, research and development, quality assurance, centralized purchasing and distribution, operations' standards, systems, marketing and advertising services.

To maintain its consistency in food quality, continuous human resource training and development is also provided. Written and hands-on exams are given to ensure adherence to Shakey's food quality standards. Periodic workshops are given to ensure delivery of excellent customer service.

To further exceed guest satisfaction, Shakey's uses the latest in technology. It was the first to introduce online ordering through its website www.shakeyspizza.ph.

To celebrate its 28th year of doing business in the country, Shakey's held its first franchise convention.

Here are comments made by some of the attendees regarding their experiences as franchisees of Shakey's:

"Our family has owned franchises since the '90s and I am so happy with the revival of support from Shakey's."—*Mike Adwani, Sehwani Group*

"Our whole family grew up on Shakey's, everyone in the family went to the stores and worked there, even my kids! Now, I see an impressive new management because the new general manager visits the stores and listens to our comments and suggestions."—*Monette Salapatan, franchise owner, Shakey's West Avenue*

"I've held on to the franchise for 12 years because they are very supportive. Because of this, we have very high customer satisfaction."—*Jonathan Gesalem, Shakey's Davao*

"I'm proud to say that our branch was the first one in a town outside Manila. Because of Shakey's, the once empty commercial center became filled to capacity ... I think the recent franchise convention is the best because it's concentrated on franchisers, this time ... We chose Shakey's because it's the best. The income level of the people who patronize Shakey's is ideal."—*Jose Estrella III, Shakey's San Pedro*

Some of the franchisees also commented they partnered with Shakey's because it offers relatively lower investment costs, therefore, lower financial risk for them. To franchise one store of a bigger food chain is equal to the cost of three Shakey's restaurants.

It provides better margins on sales; proven strong brand equity; flexibility in choosing type of business to meet a franchisee's financial capability, e.g., full restaurant operations, delivery service operations, carts or kiosks; new trading areas and locations.

The following areas/locations are still open for franchising: Marikina, Las Piñas and Baclaran.

Interested franchisees should call 839-0160 or 839-0011 to 20.

Marketing to the Josés (including the José Velardes and José Pidals) - II

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

THE QUESTION being answered last week was about marketing to the rich.

"It seems to me that entrepreneurs and businesses are also making big money marketing to the rich as well. How do you market to the rich? How big is the market in the Philippines for big ticket items and luxury goods? What products should I sell to the rich?"

To recap, we said that you need to remember one basic marketing principle: that market size is not equal to population size. Even though the rich—the class AB market—in the Philippines make up less than 10 percent of the 84.5 million Filipino population, they are worth targeting because of the multiplier effect. In other words, market size is precisely the multiplicative product of these three variables:

The number of people x buying/usage frequency x Price paid = Market size

Because the rich buy more often (frequency of purchase) and pay more (premium price multiplier) for certain products and services they are a worthy PTM - primary target market—as compared to the *masa*.

We left our discussion last week, writing about how the rich consumers are also not homogenous in their lifestyle, interests, and spending priorities and practices. The three classes of the rich that we identified (i.e., the born or established rich, the gross nouveau riche, and the smart nouveau riche) think, feel, and behave differently.

Born and established rich

The born and established rich are typified by a group of families sometimes referred to as the "LAS" families: the Lopez, the Ayala, and the Soriano families. People who belong to this market niche are wealthy mainly because of inherited money and assets and usually not out of their own labor.

The established rich know they are wealthy and are recognized as wealthy. Most of them therefore feel they do not have to prove their wealth by ostentatious spending or by exhibiting signs of wealth. They also feel secure about their social status. Their concern about their social standing is somewhere else.

It is the sense of respectable social prominence that becomes the preoccupation of the established rich. This they satisfy through acts of public service involvement and philanthropic giving. For illustrative sample cases, we do not have to go too far. Just look at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) where the senior MRx columnist teaches. When it started in 1969, its biggest endowment came from the late Eugenio Lopez. For this, AIM carried the sub-brand name of "Eugenio Lopez Foundation."

The premium land on which AIM built its campus is in the heart of Makati City, the financial center of the country. It was a piece of real estate donated by the Ayalas. And finally, the AIM's first most prestigious professorial chair was funded by a grant from the Sorianos of San Miguel Corporation. For this, the chair was known as the Andres Soriano Professorial Chair of Management.

The generosity of the born rich is well known and widely publicized. Stories go around about the practice of this generosity especially with their employees. For example, the late Eugenio Lopez is said to give out to his executives year-end bonuses "in 7 and even 8 figures" and to his rank and file "6 to 8 months' year-end bonuses." (Now the Lopezes are forced to give "bonuses", i.e. refunds to its Meralco customers totaling billions of pesos.) The controversial billionaire Danding Cojuangco, who may end up being our next president if Ping doesn't get his way, is said to give out to all employees in his many companies "one to two months' birthday bonuses." This is not a bonus given for the employee's birthday but in celebration of Cojuangco's birthday.

Social status statement

The houses of the established rich are an unmistakable intended statement of their upscale standing. A born rich has several houses that fall into two types. There is the original family ancestral home and the "others." While maintained and renovated from time to time, the ancestral home typically maintains its original colonial European architecture and interiors.

MRx personally knows of marketers of imported, upscale construction materials and furnishings. They have made fortunes by marketing to the home furnishing needs of the established and born rich.

Italian marble is one need. In some homes, the marble flooring is sometimes replaced and modernized into granite flooring. This is not according to the original owner's wish but that of the second or third generation son or daughter. Thick elaborately decorated Persian carpets are another that is in itself a clear statement about who is living at home. When guests look up, they will see expensive Murano glass chandeliers and lighting fixtures imported from Italy. If they proceed to the modular, imported kitchen, which often has been modernized, guests will see marble kitchen counter tops. If the house has passed on to the second or third generation, the marble kitchen tops would have given way to granite. Lining the kitchen space are imported kitchen signature brand appliances. As mentioned before, a set of Sub Zero appliances can set you back by seven figures.

MRx's cousin, who is a chef, is a close friend of the chef of one of the Philippines premier triple Class A established rich families. This chef says that the kitchen alone of this family in Forbes Park costs more than P10 million to put together.

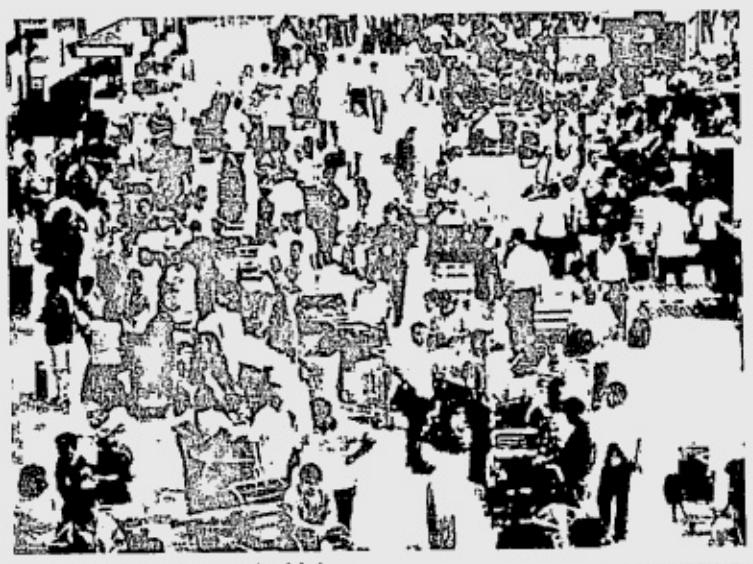
(Notice all the upscale modular kitchens being sold in the Makati malls as well as in Shangrila Plaza. Notice also the number of local upscale glossy "design and architecture" magazines being supported by advertising from these shops that target these three type of rich market.)

Stereotype

Because most of the born and established rich are known to have come from several generations of rich landowners or industrialists, popular beliefs have bestowed on them strong stereotypes. A stereotype is an oversimplified concept of a person or group of persons. The concept often erroneously assigns certain fixed traits to the person or group. For instance, the born rich are often believed to be able to maintain their wealth because they are stingy and penny-pinchers. So what is seen as the born rich's practice of intelligent and rational buying, where they ask a lot of questions and thoroughly inspect what they are buying, is mistaken for miserly behavior.

A born rich family imagery is frequently used for branding. Many a movie actress and actor have branded themselves with a born rich surname. And so we have a Soriano, an Ayala and a Lopez actress. We also have a Concepcion, a Zobel, a Madrigal actor. Ayala Alabang in Muntinglupa and Ayala Heights in Quezon City sold its real property areas as premium real estates based on the magic attached to the Ayala family name equity.

Next week we discuss the gross nouveau riche market. For feedback email at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com



OFWS and tourists at the Naia. ROGER MARGALLO

Selling living benefits to those far away

MARKETING STRATEGY

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ON TOP of keeping the economy afloat with their remittances of over $8 billion a year, the overseas Filipino workers have also provided a tremendous boost to the insurance business in the Philippines.

Ed Vencio, marketing man of Philamlife, the country's largest insurance firm, admits that the OFW is one of their main market today, along with other insurance companies.

"We were the first to set up a team focused on OFWs, tapping into the AIG network," he says.

Philamlife launched their OFW program in 1999 where they sell insurance and pre-need products to the OFWs and their dependents.

"They are a natural market for life insurance. They go to other countries to realize dreams for their families—so the kids can study, so they can buy a house, and perhaps, set up a small business."

He reminds that insurance is forced savings. But he admits that they focus more on selling to the OFW himself than the dependent as the one abroad is the one who will pay for the premium.

Vencio explains that the new insurance products today actually provide better yields for the Filipinos' money. While banks offer interest rates of one percent a year, insurance firms provide higher yields.

However there is a drawback - with insurance, your money is locked. It is for the long-term. You cannot just pull out your money when you need it.

"It's a balance between liquidity and yield. You cannot find a high liquidity, high interest instrument," he says.

Insurance as expense

Marketing manager Tina Ramos admits many Filipinos still see insurance as an expense. "It is not seen as forced savings but as an expense."

Which is why most insurance firms have created products that address more specific needs of the Filipino consumer.

Vencio says when Filipinos were asked to draw a pie of their expenses, the list included food, clothes, entertainment and payment for insurance. He notes that this is the reason the marketing lines now being used by insurance firms are "living benefits."

Ramos also points what is more important than life insurance to Juan de la Cruz is education.

Vencio says he talked to anthropologist and UP professor Felipe Jocano Jr. and asked what is at the root of the Filipinos' value for education vis-à-vis the value of entrepreneurship that the Chinese emphasize on.

Jocano says, "The value placed on education is partly a product of the American colonial legacy. I would guess that the value placed by the Chinese on business entrepreneurship has to do with the necessity of surviving as an ethnic minority group in the Philippines. Education was necessary for developing a trained bureaucracy. UP (in fact) was originally for training civil servants. Education also represents an investment in the future. The kids grow, get jobs and take care of their parents later. The system perpetuates itself."

Vencio observes that Filipinos were conditioned more to be employees than business owners.

Jocano tells him "In many cases, yes. Hence, Filipino entrepreneurs stand out."

When Vencio asks Jocano which is the superior value, Jocano replies, "Both have their uses. I think though we need to place greater emphasis on education that empowers Filipinos to create opportunities, not just to look for them. But I fear we will not rise to the same level of prosperity as a people if the majority aim to be employees rather than entrepreneurs."

VAT on financial institutions clarified

TAX-FILES

By Ruben R. Rubio
SGV & Co

THE ISSUANCE of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-2003 (Imposing VAT on services of banks, non-bank financial intermediaries and finance companies) on March 10, 2003 ended the deferment of the imposition of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on financial institutions like banks, non-bank financial intermediaries including quasi-banks, and finance companies excluding insurance companies.

Since RR No. 12-2003 provided only anral overview of the VAT on FIs, there were unclear issues. To address these, the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 28-2003 and RMC No. 30-2003 on May 16 and 20, respectively.

Proper VAT base

Financial Institutions, classified as sellers of services, are liable to VAT based on their gross receipts.

Generally, "Gross receipts" is determined on a cash basis, so if an income is received, actually or constructively, it is already subject to VAT. VAT is imposed on income/deposit/advance payment received regardless of the time or period when it was/is earned.

The accrual of the interest income in the books of FIs without accrual or constructive receipt is not yet a VAT taxable event.

This rule is true whether the financial institution adopts the cash or accrual method of accounting. In case an income received in advance but still unearned is subjected to tax and is subsequently returned for failure to deliver the required service, the BIR ruled that the return should be treated as deduction from gross receipts at the time previously collected amount is returned.

For VAT imposed on FIs, "actually or constructively received amount of income" is equivalent to the economic benefit derived from the income payment. Actual receipt of income happens when physical possession of the money or property payment takes place. Constructive receipt of income occurs when the money consideration is placed at the control of the person who rendered the service without restrictions by the payor.

The following are examples of constructive receipts:

(1) deposit in banks which are made available to the seller of services without restrictions;

(2) issuance by the debtor of a notice to offset any debt or obligation and acceptance thereof by the seller as payment for services rendered;

(3) transfer of the amounts retained by the contractee to the account of the contractor. Hence, where the income payment was subjected to final tax, the amount constructively received corresponding to the final withholding of income tax which was used in extinguishing the recipient's income tax liability on the income received forms part of the taxable receipt for purposes of computing recipient's/taxpayer's VAT liability.

Applying the rules stated above, the bank should recognize the output VAT on interest income when it is actually or constructively received as when the interest is already collected or placed at the free disposal or control of the person earning the income. If the bank has taken control over the interest income such as when an existing deposit account of client is debited for the charged bank's interest income, such interest income is considered constructively received upon debiting the deposit account.

Specific income items of FIs subject to VAT (a) Income from discounted loans and investments . A discounted loan is a loan where the entire interest and principal are paid at maturity. In this case, the VAT shall be paid on maturity. However, if the discounted loan is sold before maturity date, the resulting trading gain is subject to VAT. For the subsequent holder which is likewise a financial institution, the VAT will be based on the difference between the maturity value and the acquisition cost of the securities.

Interest on coupon bonds received before maturity of the bonds and any other interest income for that matter, received before the maturity of the investment/securities shall be taxable in the period of receipt.

(b) Income from service rendered to PEZA and BOI-registered enterprises. As a general rule, income from sale of services to BOI-registered export enterprise with 100 percent export sales and PEZA-registered/Ecozone export enterprise are subject to zero VAT. Thus, it follows that the income derived by FIs from the said entities are subject to no VAT.

The term, "PEZA-registered/Ecozone export enterprise" refers to an enterprise registered either with PEZA or with other ecozone such as Subic, Clark, John Hay or Poro Point Special Economic Zone as an export enterprise.

The zero-rating will only apply to services rendered by FIs that are directly related to the registered activity of the export enterprise. As a mode of implementation, the FI shall require the export enterprise to show proof that the transactions are in fact directly related to its registered activity and to submit a Sworn Statement attesting to such fact. These records shall be kept by the FIs and made available for audit by BIR on demand.

(c) Gain on sales real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoa)

Pursuant to the general rule on VAT on sale of goods, gain on Ropoa sales is subject to VAT at the time of sale and not at the time of payment. This is regardless of whether the method or mode of payment is cash or installment.

The VAT base shall be the gain or difference between the amount realized at the time of sale and the costs thereof which is equivalent to the bid price or the unpaid loan value, whichever is lower, at the time of foreclosure. Thus, foreclosure expenses such as legal fees, sheriff fees etc. are not allowed as deduction in determining the gain on Ropoa sales subject to VAT.

Foreclosure for this purpose, means the time when the Loan Receivable account is reversed and a Ropoa account is created.

(d) Other income items RMC No. 28-2003 clarified certain issues with regard to the following income items:

- Trust funds managed by the banks and other FIs are not subject to VAT. The VAT applies only to the fees/compensation which the Trust Department receives for performing the services of managing the trust funds.
- Revaluation gain involving foreign currencies and securities transactions are not subject to VAT if a translation gain or loss for the purpose of book entry or recording and that no actual transaction occurred.
- Forex swap differentials form part of the net foreign exchange/trading gains or losses, whichever is applicable
- Income previously exempt from gross receipts tax (GRT) (e.g., dividends, Landbank Agrobonds, HIGC guaranteed loans) is not necessarily exempt from VAT. The only income or transactions that are exempt from VAT are those exempted by the express provision of the law (Section 109 of the Tax Code of 1997), including special laws. Thus, dividends received by FIs while subject to GRT at zero percent, is subject to VAT at 10 percent.
- Bad Debt Recoveries are subject to VAT on the portion pertaining to past due interest and other charges, but not on the principal amount of loan.
- Gain or loss in a foreign currency position in one month can be offset against the loss or gain in another month for purposes of determining the output tax provided the month are within the same calendar of fiscal quarter.

In general, sale of services should be substantiated by a VAT official receipt while sale of goods should supported by a VAT invoice.

Long line is shortcut to success

EIGHT years ago Therese Gonzales, mother of three, went into business because her children were all grown up.

Though she lacked business experience, she learned that through franchising, she could start one with relative ease. After asking around, she chose an enterprise, which sold boxer shorts.

It was while she was appraising the store in Glorietta when she spotted Potato Corner (534-5845, 534-5846 and 0917-873-6110). "It was the 20-deep line that caught my attention."

She immediately joined the line and tasted the product. She decided to get a Potato Corner franchise.

With friend Maricar Perdices, they run the Potato Corner franchise in Cebu, which now has 11 carts with a 12th in the pipeline.

It was also the long lines that attracted Linda del Rosario and Rosanna Angeles to Potato Corner. Del Rosario has one cart in Shoppesville while Angeles has two (Las Piñas and Libertad.)

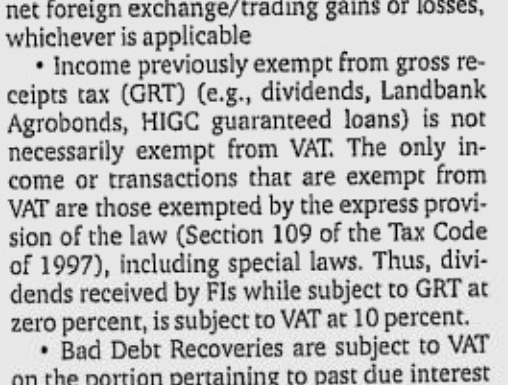
"We created quite a stir here when we started," says Del Rosario. "We also had long, long lines when we were new."

The queues may have shortened but her stall is still doing doing very well. She also struck a deal with Potato Corner to manage her stall on her behalf, with a 50-50 share on the profit. "I practically leave all the work to them," Del Rosario said. "All I have to do is show up to get my share."

She appreciates the co-management service that Potato Corner offers and is able to enjoy the fruits of her franchise.

Angeles, on the other hand, prefers to be hands-on and manages her two carts. This makes her income bigger. She gave up an advertising career to become a full time mom to 18-month-old Uno whom she and her husband waited for for seven years.

"They (her carts) practically run on their own with minimal supervision because of the franchise's built-in system."



LINDA del Rosario, Rosanna Angeles with JoeMag Magsaysay of Potato Corner

Potato Corner, by the way, is the country first food chain to offer flavored fries.

Franchise fee is P200,000 (payback is at 11-14 months).

It was awarded "Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year" by the Philippine Franchise Association.

A JAPANESE businessman passes by in front of a share prices chart in downtown Tokyo. Japan's share prices fell 309.99 points to close at 10,546.33 points at the Tokyo Stock Exchange as losses on Wall Street prompted continued profit-taking across the board. AFP

AUTO SPENDING

August US retail sales seen up

CHICAGO—US consumers spent heavily in August, especially on autos, sending US retail sales higher for the month, according to a Reuters poll.

Twenty-six economists polled by Reuters yielded a median forecast for a 1.4 percent rise in overall retail sales last month, compared with a 1.4 percent rise in July. Excluding the volatile autos component, retail sales were expected to have risen 0.8 percent, that same as July's 0.8 percent rise.

The highest forecast was for a 2.1 percent gain in overall sales. The lowest called for a 0.2 percent rise.

Retail sales showed unexpectedly strong growth in July as spending on a broad array of items shot up. The July increase was the largest since March.

That report showed higher sales of building materials, garden supplies, electronics and general merchandise.

Following are a selection of comments from Wall Street analysts:

Lehman Brothers: "Retail sales were robust in August. For the quarter, real consumer spending looks to have risen by more than 5 percent, driven by the favorable combination of lower marginal taxes, rebate checks and the lingering liquidity effects from spring's mortgage refinancing bubble. With all this liquidity—perhaps as much several billion dollars this month—households hit auto dealer lots in droves.

"Once again, economists have been stumped by the strength in auto sales, expecting the sales pace would cool down to more moderate levels this year as the novelty of supercheap financing and any unrequited demand faded. Instead, it now looks as if sales will average at least 16.4 million units in 2004.

"Much of the liquidity that did not make it to dealer lots wound up being spent at chain stores, electronics shops and hardware stores instead," said Patrick Fearon, economist, AG Edwards and Sons.

FTN Financial: "If the sales come in as expected, that would imply a year- over-year increase comfortably above 5 percent. That is a better level than we were seeing earlier in the year. And it probably would provide some confirmation that the consumer sector is looking a bit brighter."

"At 18.99 million units, auto sales in August were the third-strongest ever, up a solid 10.3 percent from an already strong July. With car sales like this, we don't need strength anywhere else to get a huge gain in retail sales.

"But strength there was. To put these auto sales into perspective, the gain of 10.3 percent in August was the biggest since the 33.9 rise in October 2001, which lifted retail sales growth to 6.1." *Reuters*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-516 Series of 2003

Japan sales tax to stay at low 5%

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi reiterated on Thursday he would keep Japan's sales tax at 5 percent if he wins a new term as leader of the ruling party this month, despite worries about the nation's dwindling revenues.

"For another three years, the environment will not be one in which we should raise the consumption tax," he said in a televised debate of candidates for the Liberal Democratic Party leadership.

Koizumi is widely expected to win a three-year term as party leader in the poll on Sept. 20, which would virtually ensure he stays on as prime minister.

Many economists and government officials say Japan will eventually have to raise the sales tax to cope with falling revenues, ever-increasing social security costs and soaring debts.

But they say raising it prematurely could hurt already fragile consumer sentiment and send Japan back into recession.

In 1997, then Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pushed forward a drastic fiscal reform plan, including an increase in the sales tax to the current five percent from three percent.

That shift, coupled with a string of bankruptcies and the fallout from Asia's economic crisis, forced Hashimoto out of office and helped tip the economy back into a downturn.

Koizumi has previously said he wants to focus on cutting spending while in office and that his successor can decide whether to raise the sales tax rate. *Reuters*

Private equity still risky in China

SHANGHAI—Venture capitalists and private equity investors in China bemoaned dismal ethics, inadequate laws and non-existent disclosure at the annual general meeting of the China Venture Capital Association this week.

But still they come, and despite the familiar complaints all are scrambling to increase exposure to China's fast growth of around eight percent a year over the past decade, cheap labor and vast market.

Industry executives estimate China will lure about $7 billion a year in two to three years—roughly equal to the level of private funds now in South Korea—up from an estimated $1 billion this year.

"China has a lack of ethics in the business field.

Everywhere you go, you get cheated," Shan Weijian, a managing director at private equity group Newbridge Capital, said in an unusually frank speech to the forum.

Because of the murky conditions in China, private equity funds tend to prefer South Korea and Japan, where privatization and reform are throwing up abundant opportunities. In August, equity fund manager Lone Star inked a $1.2 billion deal to take control of Korea Exchange Bank.

Finding a suitable investment target in China often involves sifting through poor accounting and chasing details, but investors at the forum said it can be worth your while.

"The retreating of the state and advance of private enterprise—these are beautiful words for us," enthused Andrew Yan, president of the Softbank Asia Infrastructure Fund.

Local governments—notably in Shanghai and Shenzhen—are openly trying to unload state assets to foreign investors, craving not only capital but also overseas management expertise.

And private firms, which account for half China's gross domestic output but have difficulty getting loans or raising capital because of a lack of size, are an untapped market. *Reuters*

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	6 THE MEDALLION	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep 12 & 13 4PM BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept 18 7PM		
	7 DADDY DAY CARE			

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MARIKINA tel 533.3851 533.3856

1 ASBOOBS
2 MEDALLION
3 KALABIT
4

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 MEDALLION
2 SWAT
3 KALABIT
4 ASBOOBS
5 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029

1 ASBOOBS
2 KALABIT

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1 KALABIT
2 ASBOOBS
3 THE MEDALLION
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 SWAT
6 DADDY DAY CARE
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 WWW XXX COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SPY KIDS 3D
2 SWAT
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 SPY KIDS 3D
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 SWAT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SPY KIDS 3D
2 PINAY PIE
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 PINAY PIE
2 KEKA
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 ITALIAN JOB

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 VISIBLE SECRET
2 ASBOOBS
3 WWW XXX COM
4 KALABIT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 SWAT
2 PINAY PIE
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 WWW XXX COM
5 DADDY DAY CARE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 PINAY PIE
2 WWW XXX COM
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 SWAT
3 SPY KIDS 3D

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 ITALIAN JOB
2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 KEKA
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 WWW XXX COM
2 ASBOOBS
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 WWW XXX COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 SWAT
2 KEKA
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1 PINAY PIE
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 SWAT
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

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Filinvest - Alabang
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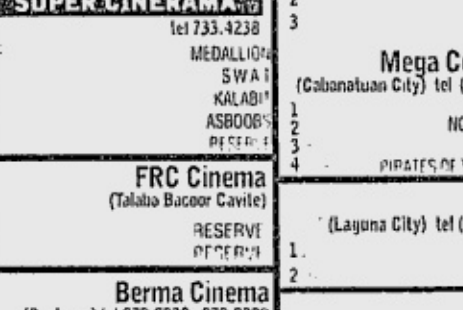

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SM CITY BACOOR
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1 ASBOOBS
2 KALABIT
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE
5 S.W.A.T.
6 THE MEDALLION
7 PINAY PIE
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 - 7161416

1 THE MEDALLION
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 S.W.A.T.
6 ASBOOBS
7 PINAY PIE
8 DADDY DAY CARE
9 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10 KALABIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 SINBAD
2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 THE MEDALLION
5 S.W.A.T.
6 PINAY PIE
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
8 ASBOOBS
9 DADDY DAY CARE
10 INTERSTATE 60
11 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12 KALABIT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 THE MEDALLION
5 DADDY DAY CARE
6 S.W.A.T.
7 KALABIT
8 WWW.XXX.COM
9 PINAY PIE
10 INTERSTATE 60
11 SPY KIDS 3-D
12 ASBOOBS

SM MEGAMALL
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1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 THE MEDALLION
5 DADDY DAY CARE
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 INTERSTATE 60
8 ASBOOBS
9 KALABIT
10 S.W.A.T.
11 PINAY PIE
12 WWW XXX.COM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9255452

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 S.W.A.T.
3 KALABIT
4 PINAY PIE
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 DADDY DAY CARE
7 THE MEDALLION
8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 S.W.A.T.
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE
5 WWW.XXX.COM
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 ASBOOBS
8 THE MEDALLION
9 PINAY PIE
10 KALABIT

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4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 KEKA
6 ASBOOBS
7 PINAY PIE
8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 MR. BONES
2 RESERVED
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
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5 PINAY PIE
6 SINBAD
7 RESERVED
8 AS BOOBS

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7128015

1 S.W.A.T.
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3 ASBOOBS
4 KALABIT
5 PINAY PIE
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294375

1 KALABIT
2 THE MEDALLION
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 DADDY DAY CARE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 MEDALLION
3 ASBOOBS
4 KALABIT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 KALABIT
3 PINAY PIE
4 ASBOOBS
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 KALABIT
3 DADDY DAY CARE
4 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 PINAY PIE
3 NAKED WEAPON
4 SINBAD

THE PODIUM CINEMA
633-8976

DADDY DAY CARE
10:00 FS/10:10 MF/12:05/2:00/4:00/6:00/8:00/9:30
LFS/10:00 LMF/11:30 END

2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
10:00 FS/10:10 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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4 DADDY DAY CARE 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
2 THE MEDALLION 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T. 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 10:50, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 KALABIT 11:00, 1:00, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
9 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
10 ASBOOBS 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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Ermita
536-7178 09 TO 13

1 THE MEDALLION - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
2 KALABIT - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
3 S.W.A.T. - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 DADDY DAY CARE - - 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
5 Legally Blonde 2 - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
6 ASBOOBS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50, 11:45
7 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Metro East
682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3 S.W.A.T.
4 THE MEDALLION
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
6 ASBOOBS
7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8 KALABIT

Novaliches
935-3229/31

1 THE MEDALLION
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 KALABIT
4 S.W.A.T.
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8 PINAY PIE

Malabon
288-0985
288-2575

1 KALABIT
2 THE MEDALLION
3 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
4 ASBOOBS

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(045) 961-5270

1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 KEKA
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 KALABIT
5 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
6 S.W.A.T.

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(046) 875-5858

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2 S.W.A.T.
3 ASBOOBS
4 THE MEDALLION
5 KALABIT
6 DADDY DAY CARE

Sta. Rosa
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1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 S.W.A.T.
3 PINAY PIE
4 DADDY DAY CARE
5 PINAY PIE

Bacolod
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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 SINBAD
3 PINAY PIE
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 ASBOOBS
6 TALK TO HER/WWW.XXX.COM

Iloilo
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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 ASBOOBS
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 ALEX AND EMMA
5 KEKA
6 MR. BONES

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

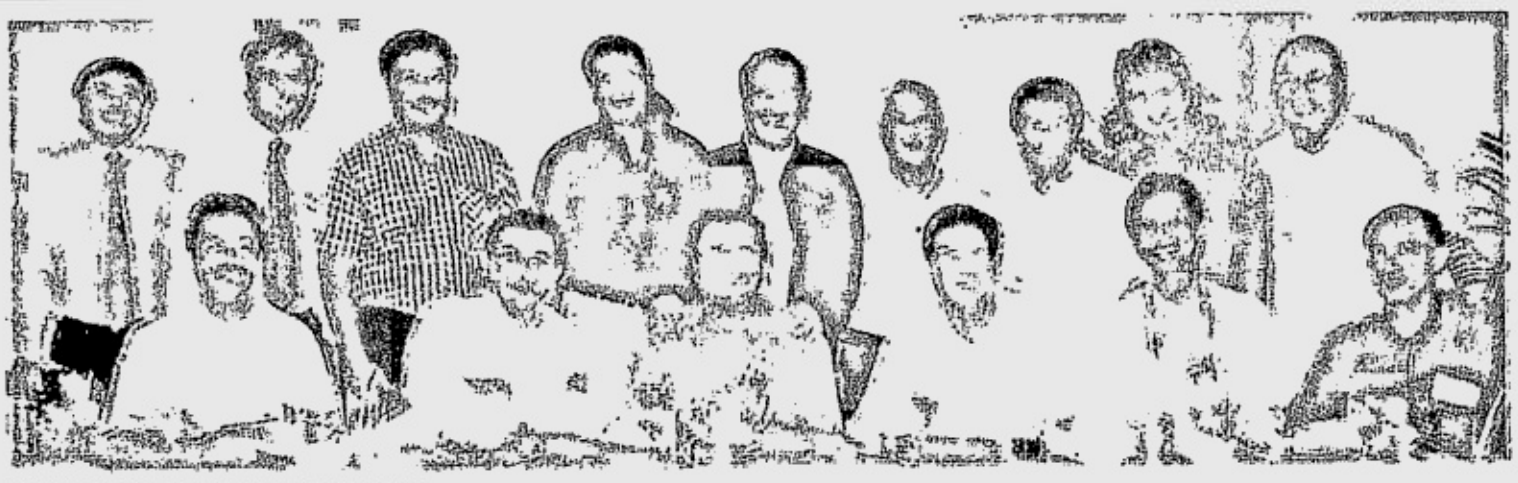
Editor Aries Espinosa

Inquirer thanks newsdealers

AS A result of the continuous growth in market share of the Inquirer, its president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (center, seated in both photos) personally thanked the Metro Manila newsdealers for their continued support to the paper and its ongoing cause to further enhance the newspaper readership habit among the youth. For their part, NMCDAP president Ben Tabianan and PMDO chair Danny Jose lauded the efforts of the Inquirer to further strengthen relations with newsdealers all over the country and reiterated their commitment of support to efforts that would further enhance newspaper readership in the country. Shown are the two groups of newsdealers who visited the Inquirer offices recently.

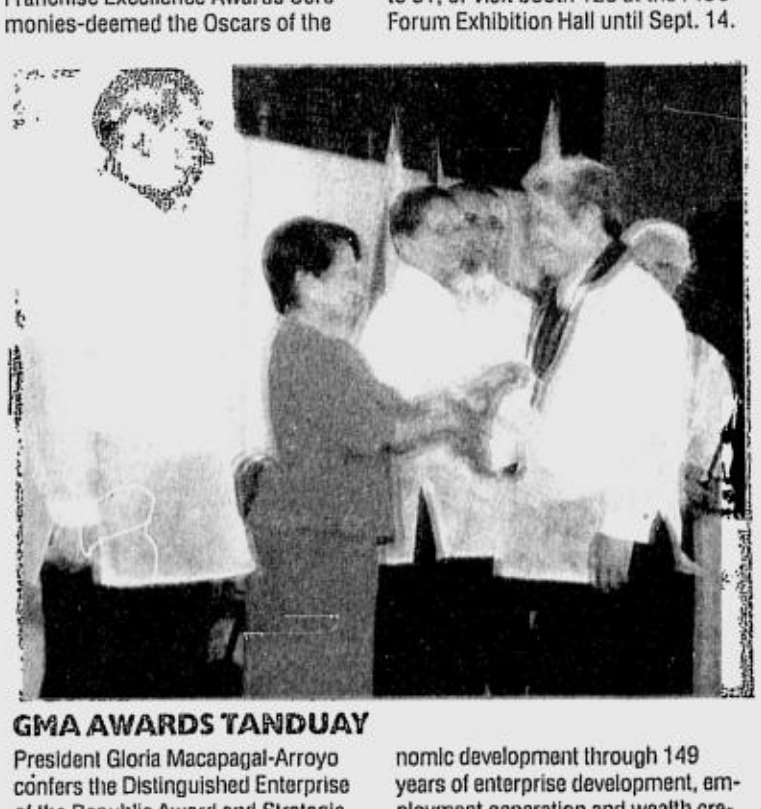
RED RIBBON FRANCHISING PROGRAM TAKES OFF

Red Ribbon Foods Corp (RRFC) is a main participant in the biggest franchise event of the year, the 11th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo 2003. RRFC is an active member of the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), the event organizer. Aside from having a booth at the PICC forum exhibition hall from Sept. 12 to 14, RRFC will also be one of the workshop presenters on the "As to Zs of Buying a Franchise" on Sept. 13. In the last Franchise Excellence Awards Ceremonies-deemed the Oscars of the Philippine franchising industry-RRFC was recognized as the most promising Filipino franchise of the year in 2002 by the Department of Trade and Industry and the PFA. For 2003, RRFC is one of the nominees for the most outstanding Filipino franchise of the year. To date, RRFC has 13 franchised stores and will open four more by December. For those who wish to know more about the Red Ribbon Bakeshop franchise, call Carol at 724-4892 or 724-3078 to 81, or visit booth 126 at the PICC Forum Exhibition Hall until Sept. 14.



DLSU ENGFRESH70 REUNION

Pilipinas Shell spokesman Bobby Kanapi recently hosted at the Shellhouse in Makati a reunion of his De La Salle Engfresh 70 classmates. The group is composed of former De La Salle students who all entered engineering school in 1970. The group meets monthly and seeks to develop continuing camaraderie and brotherhood among its members, while at the same time seeking ways to assist in improving the socio-economic conditions of the country. Attending the recent meeting, as shown, were (seated) Ador Abrogena, Ato Vergel de Dios, Dave Villanueva, Joseph Ong, Mon Yazon, and Conrad Ricafort. Standing are Gerry Nepomuceno, Binky Kilayko, Tony Lucindo, Jet Valmonte, Bobby Kanapi, Danny Lee, Arni Valdes, Deo Fontanilla, and Jun Ymson.



GMA AWARDS TANDUAY

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo confers the Distinguished Enterprise of the Republic Award and Strategic Development Partner Award to Tanduay Distillers Inc during the recent centennial celebration of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Foundation Inc (CCPF). Receiving the award on behalf of Tanduay chair and CEO Dr. Lucio C. Tan is Tanduay vice chair Mariano Tanenglian (2nd from right). Tanduay was cited for its outstanding contribution to national economic development through 149 years of enterprise development, employment generation and wealth creation as a pioneer and leader in the distillery industry. The company was also recognized fro its continuing support to the CCPF in its commitment to promote and enhance small and medium enterprises in the country. Also shown are (from left) CCPF officials led by Francis Chua, Exequiel Garcia and Rose Teodoro (partly hidden).

Clips

Acoustic nights at Baga Berde

FAMOUS TV and movie personality Stella Ruiz unfolds another side of her acting prowess as she belts out her soulful voice in an acoustic act together with today's hottest acoustic quartet, Nyoy Volante and Mannos on Friday, Sept. 12, 9 p.m. at Baga Berde in Pasig. Stella, who has been busy with her business ventures aside from her showbiz career, has gained considerable praise for her "sexy husky" voice leading her to take singing more professionally. With Nyoy and Mannos, who are now at the forefront of the acoustic scene, recently gaining an Aliw award and a newly released album, expect a whole night of relaxing and soothing sound of R&B and ballads. "Nyoy and Stella String Up Baga Berde" is presented by Concertos Y Eventos. For ticket inquiries, call 723-9994 or 721-5283.

Accounting for non-accountants

THIS is especially designed for non-accounting managers, supervisors and personnel. Whether you like it or not, you have to work with some issues in basic accounting. Be empowered by this program slated today, Sept. 12, 5 to 9 p.m. at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The workshop will have as resource lecturer Cecile Catahan, cum laude, CPA, and a bank chief accountant. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

RDS Galleria relaunch promo starts

IN CELEBRATION of its grand relaunch this September, the newly refurbished Robinsons Department Store (RDS) at Robinsons Galleria is giving away a Toyota Vios 1.3 EMT and up to P150,000 worth of gift certificates in a special raffle promo that runs from Sept. 12 to Nov. 12. Customers with a P300 purchase, single or accumulated, are entitled to one raffle coupon, which they may claim at promo booths located inside the store. Three lucky customers will win P50,000 worth of gift certificates each, while one winner will be drawn for the brand new car. The raffle draw will be held on Nov. 19. The new RDS in Galleria boasts brighter interiors, wider aisles and a more customer-friendly layout. London-based Zebra Designs undertook the renovation for RDS, and is responsible for the look of the Calvin Klein boutiques and Debenhams.

Eiga Sai 2003 at UP Film Center

AFTER a five-day successful screening at the SM Megamall Cinema 6, Eiga Sai 2003, The Kitano Selection and Films from the Asean is currently at the UP Film Center until Sept. 12 and then at the Dream Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. Presented by the Japan Foundation Manila Office, in cooperation with the Podium, SM Cinema, UP Film Center and Cultural Center of the Philippines, the festival features seven works of the renowned actor-director Takeshi Kitano's award-winning films "Fireworks", "Kids Return", "Boiling Point", "Kikujiro", "Sonatine", "Violent Cop", and "Scene at the Sea". In celebration of the Asean-Japan Exchange Year 2003, Eiga Sai 2003 will also feature five Asean films. The festival is open to the public. For more information, call Willy at 811-6155 to 58.

Business proposal writing

EVERY successful deal starts with a well-written business proposal. However, despite many years in business, many well-meaning sales-oriented companies fail to bag certain deals because of poorly written sales letters. For this reason, The Corporate Mind presents "Converting Business Proposals to Cash", a seminar/workshop on writing effective letters of proposals, on Sept. 12, 14 or 18 (choice of the three dates) from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly Manila Galleria Suites) on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Lecturer and workshop facilitator is sales, marketing and negotiation consultant Joscephine Gomez, president of The Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training. To enroll, call 687-7898 or e-mail corpmind@edsamail.com.ph.

PSCM 11th annual confab

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Climacteric Medicine announces its 11th Annual Convention on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Manila, Mandaluyong City. The theme is "Rational Approaches to Current Dilemmas in the Management of Menopause". Keynote speaker is professor Nimit Taechakraichana of Chulalongkorn University of Bangkok, Thailand. For particulars, call the secretariat Ivy M. Nacman at 433-9776.

Better food for seniors

SENIOR citizens have special needs. This is particularly true with regards to their diet. Unfortunately, there is little information about preparing food for the elderly. The Julius Maggi Kitchen shows us how to serve senior citizens nutritious meals without sacrificing taste. Cherrilyn Tan RND of the dietary department of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital will demonstrate how to prepare healthy, interesting and tasty dishes especially designed for seniors. Don't miss the free informative activities on Sept. 13, 18 and 20 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, ground floor, Nestle Center, 31 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City. For reservations, call 726-9232 or 726-1016. Invite a friend who is not yet a member of the Nestle Club and get a chance to win in the Nestle Bring a Friend Raffle. Or join the Lucky Labels and Buy & Win promos.

Michael Buble at The Podium

THE MANY fans of Canadian-born singing sensation Michael Buble have a rare chance to meet him up close and personal when he makes a stop at The Podium on Sunday, Sept. 14 for an exclusive autograph-signing session. The event is presented by Astroplus, Warner Music Philippines, Joey 92.3 and The Podium. Every purchase of a Michael Buble CD from Astroplus at the 4th level of The Podium gives one a chance to meet the singer and get his or her CD autographed by Michael Buble himself. There will be special coupons in selected Michael Buble CDs purchased at Astrovision that would entitle lucky shoppers to sought-after invites to Michael Buble's Gala Concert at the Meralco Theater on Sept. 13. Likewise, Joey 92.3 listeners can join the Michael Buble trivia contest on air and win prizes from Warner Music Philippines and The Podium.

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PARANAQUE

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MANILA

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P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

1-2-3BR nr La Salle TAFT
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PARANAQUE

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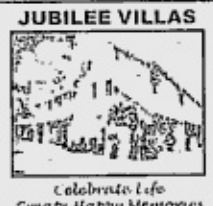
AYALA PROJECT STUDIO-3BR
ACROSS SM SUCAT 0917-8313225

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

JUBILEE VILLAS



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LOT

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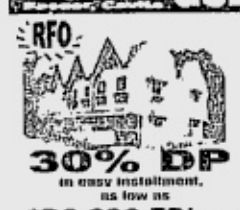

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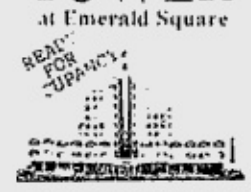

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Quisao Pililla Rizal 58,593m² w New Bungalo Bodega. Strong H20, 3PH Elec Line. Big Ponds for Fingerlings Fruit Trees 300/sqm Neg. 642-29-61 • ABE

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HOUSE

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CONDO MKT 1BR 9275260

STUDIO SEMI F Orlando & Buendia Mkt 0919-4709137

MANILA

Paco 1&2br 7T up 5641561

MANDALUYONG

1BR Shaw Tower T632-0430

2br Condo Wack 15T 09189242622

Boni 1br 7.2T 5352459
Crossing 1br 7T 5346060

PASIG

ORTIGAS 2br Condo 200m² Unfurn 25T ALL-IN 412-1825

APARTMENT

MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

Unit W/1 & 2 BRMS 5630401

PARANAQUE

BFP 8T 2BR/GRG T8420440

QUEZON CITY

27 Masikap 3br 16T 3730587

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342684 / 0919-2876641/29

CUBAO P3.5T Std Lady 9124428

FOR LEASE

Fabrication shop off 7233697

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

2-STORY BUILDING WAREHOUSE LIGHT INDUSTRY 1 309 SQ M FLOOR AREA PROVIDENT VILL MARIKINA TEL 721-7625

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East Ave., Beside SSS
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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS LOANS 524-3197

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Antel 20000 Salcedo Village Makati 104sqm w/ parking Call 5269861 8955211

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (42m² up to 627m²) 887-6003

Perfect 4 NGO Nr SSS QC 27 Masikap 80m² 17T 3730587

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

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NICE HSE 4BR W/T&b SMV MAKATI 8963927

CONDO/TWNHSE/FOR SALE/RENT

Royalview SJ 3BR w/Prking 9TH Flr Furnishd AC/HTR 117Sqm 4M 8421119 9-5 PM

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

99GHIA 310T neg 09189242622

MITSUBISHI

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TOYOTA

93GLI MATIC P208T 5413430

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CAR VANS 410-0495

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

VANS/CAR 741-1356

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BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

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DECSB-PHN 30116

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631-0429 or Ms. Terencio 634-2877

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Transp Bonus 4383523 / 9950721

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MALE/FEMALE

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w/Exp College Grad. Level
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CARLITO EDORA who died on August 13 2002 Masinloc Zambales has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on December 27 2002 under Doc 150, Page 31 Book III, Series of 2002 by Notary Public for Makati City Atty. Francis C Gonzales.
•PDI-Sept. 12, 19 & 26, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CHEN SHAN TSAI has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Document # 319 Page #75; Book 45 Series of 2003 before Notary Public Lupe M. Velasco of Manila (PDI- September 5, 12 & 19 , 2003)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of NATION PETROLEUM CORPORATION with office address at Rizal Street, Candelaria, Quezon for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Investment in the Storage, Marketing and Distribution of Petroleum Products (Additional 4 units of 500 MT LPG Storage Tanks) under R.A. 8479, otherwise known as the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998 with project site at Barangay Castanas, Sariaya, Quezon has been officially accepted on September 8, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 8th day of September 2003

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI-Sept. 12, 2003)

ERRATUM

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Third Elementary Education Project of the Department of Education-Division of Zamboanga Sibugay would also invite sealed bids from eligible bidders with PCAB License Category of at least Medium A for Building for the School Building Program Packages 1 to 5 as correction on the IFB published last August 26, 2003 inviting Bidders with PCAB License Category Medium B

Pre-bidding Conference will be on September 18, 2003, 9:00 am at the Conference Hall of the Department of Education, Division of Zamboanga Sibugay.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that MS. JOCELYN B. CATAMPO is no longer connected with FIL-OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, INC. (Eff. 08/01/03)

Hence the above person is no longer authorized to transact business for and in behalf of said company.

ORNAMENTAL TREES AND PALMS FOR SALE!

VARIOUS SPECIES,
WIDE CANOPY, IDEAL FOR LANDSCAPING ACCENTS AND GREENING REQUIREMENTS.
10-25 FEET IN HEIGHT, 2-6 INCHES IN CALIPER READY FOR BALL-OUT AND TRANSPLANTING.

LOCATION: Brgy Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio, Quezon.

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885 3739 or 555 0002 loc. 3739 and (0917) 627 8288. Offers should be sent Mr. Tejada at Building A Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City Taguig, Metro Manila. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

The A. M. Oreta Group of Companies

announces the demise
of its
Founding Chairman

ANTOLIN M. ORETA, SR.

His remains lie in state at the Oreta Residence
in Bgy. Maysilo, Malabon, MM.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 16 September 2003
at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City,
after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC
An Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-5001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to submit sealed bids for the **General Services of PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal (BCT02-05 R2).**

The approved budget for the project is Php 2,743,880.00

Only contractors who are pre-qualified and accredited by PNOC EC shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Secretariat (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **September 12, 2003** upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Hundred (PHP 300.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than **3:00 P.M. October 6, 2003** at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a Pre-bid Conference will be held on **September 29, 2003, 2:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Batangas Coal Terminal Office in Brgy. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI September 12, 2003)

LGU URBAN WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT (LGU-UWSP) PHASE 2
Output – Based Aid Program in La Union Province
Philippines

PROVINCE OF LA UNION
Provincial Capitol Building
San Fernando City, La Union 2500
Tel. No. (072) 888-60-35 or (072) 888-36-08; Fax No. (072) 888-44-53
E-mail: viortegal@launion.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR A DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE CONTRACT FOR THE METROPOLITAN LA UNION WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan toward financing the cost of an Output Based Aid Program in La Union Province.

The Provincial Government of La Union would like to invite contractors, consortia and/or firms who wish to be pre-qualified for bidding for the Output-Based Aid Program. Prequalification and bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines, Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

The Output-Based Aid Program in La Union will finance connections to pre-identified low income households in the urban areas of the City of San Fernando, and the Municipalities of Bacnotan, Bauang, San Gabriel and San Juan. These five (5) Local Government Units (or LGUs) together form the franchise area. Under the proposed arrangement, the Province of La Union will provide an amount per connection to pre-identified low income households, while the private operator will be responsible to design, construct, operate, maintain and manage the water supply system in the metropolitan area for fifteen (15) years.

The DBP will make available in a long-term loan of a maximum of four hundred million pesos (P400,000,000) to the winning bidder, provided that the winning bidder fulfils all credit requirements of the DBP. The maturity of the loan could be up to a maximum of twelve (12) years at a maximum interest rate of fifteen percent (15%) per annum, according to the credit assessment of DBP.

A complete set of prequalification documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00), in cash. Prequalification Documents may be purchased at the Office of the Provincial Administrator, Province of La Union, Provincial Capitol Building, San Fernando City or at the Office of Ms. Eufemia C. Mendoza, Vice President, 5th Floor, Development Bank of the Philippines, Makati City.

Application for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the Office of the Provincial Administrator, Province of La Union, San Fernando City or at the Office of Ms. Eufemia C. Mendoza, Vice President, 5th Floor, Development Bank of the Philippines, Makati City by October 31, 2003 and clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Output-Based Aid Program in La Union Province."

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
GOV. VICTOR F. ORTEGA
PBAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 12, 14 & 20, 2003)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ERRATUM ON THE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

With reference to the announcement published last September 06, 2003, on the schedule of activities for the Construction of laboratory, stallhouse with canteen - three storey building located at NFA Cmpd., Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, the NFA wishes to announce the new schedule of activities

Submission of Letter of Intent	Sept. 13 - Oct. 03, 2003
Issuance of Registration/ Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 13 - Oct. 03, 2003
Submission of accomplished registration/eligibility forms	Sept. 22 - Oct. 06, 2003
Eligibility check	Sept. 22 - Oct. 06, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 27 - Oct. 07, 2003
Pre-Bidding Conference	Oct. 09, 2003; 2:00 p.m.
Submission of and opening of Bids	Oct. 23, 2003; 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept 12 2003)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT MANAGEMENT OFFICE-ILOILO

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY / APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port Management Office, Iloilo invites interested bidders to submit Application to Pre-qualify/apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

A.1. Name of Project: ASPHALT OVERLAY OF DETERIORATED APRON ALONG ILOILO RIVER WHARF, ILOILO CITY

B.1 Scope of Work
- 1.0 Mobilization/Demobilization
- 2.0 Cleaning/Leveling/Surface Preparation/Compaction
- 3.0 Aggregate Base Course Laying
- 4.0 Bituminous Prime Coat
- 5.0 Bituminous Concrete Resurfacing

C.1. Minimum Equipment Requirements

1	Unit	road grader	owned/leased
1	Unit	vibro roller	owned/leased
1	Unit	water truck	owned/leased
1	Unit	plate compactor	owned/leased
1	Unit	stake truck	owned/leased
1	Unit	surveying instruments	owned/leased
1	Unit	road roller	owned/leased
1	Unit	asphalt kettle w/distributor	owned/leased
1	Unit	motorized sweeper	owned/leased
	Unit	service vehicle	owned/leased
	Unit	asphalt paver	owned/leased
	Unit	pneumatic roller	owned/leased
	Unit	tandem steel wheeled roller	owned/leased
	Unit	dump truck	owned/leased

D.1. Budget for the Contract: P 6,869,965.60
Source of Funding: Repair and Maintenance

E.1. Required PCAB Registration & Classification: Medium A – Roads and Pavements

Pre-C terms shall be made available at the BAC Secretariat, Engineering Services Division, PPA-PMO-Iloilo, Admin Bldg., Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City, starting September 8-22, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P200.00.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification statement shall not be later than September 24, 2003, 5:00 P.M. in duplicate copies.

Bid documents shall be issued only to pre-qualified contractors starting September 15, 2003 payment of non-refundable cost of P350.00.

Schedule for the Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids shall be disseminated after the evaluation of Application for Eligibility thru the Notice of Eligibility of the Contractors.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) FERNANDO B. CLAVERIA
Port Manager

(PDI-Sept. 12 & 13, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
CITY OF VIGAN

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

The City Government of Vigan invites all interested suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and to submit sealed bids for the supply of a Cutter Suction Dredging Equipment funded through a loan by Land Bank & Japan Bank International Cooperation.

1) Eligibility Screening/Pre-qualification documents may be secured from the: BAC Technical Secretariat City Planning and Development Office, Vigan City Tel. # (077) 722-8772-75 local 213 from **September 15-17, 2003** upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P100.00
2) Duly accomplished pre-qualification documents shall be submitted not later than 3:00 p.m. of **September 23, 2003**.
3) All participating bidders shall be informed in writing of their qualification or disqualification.
4) Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders by the BAC Technical Secretariat of the City Government of Vigan upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 on **September 29 and 30, 2003**.
5) The Pre-Bid conference shall be held on **October 1, 2003** at 10.00 a.m.
6) Submission of Bids shall be on or before 2.00 p.m. of **October 14, 2003** at the Sanggunlang Panlungsod Session Hall of Vigan and shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. of the same day

The City Government of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to LGU.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
City Vice Mayor
Acting Chairman BAC

(PDI – September 12, 13 & 14, 2003)

National Power Corporation

September 1, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Power Corporation (NPC) of the Republic of the Philippines invites all registered Steam Coal Suppliers/Producers, foreign and local, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of coal requirements for CY 2004 (Batch 1).

The complete sets of eligibility requirements/bidding documents are available for issuance at the Office of the Bids and Contract Services Department (BCSD), NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel/Fax No. 924-5361/922-1622, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Registered prospective bidders shall be evaluated as to eligibility based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria prescribed in the eligibility requirements/ tender documents.

The requirements are tabulated hereunder.

CY 2004 (Batch 1)

OPEN TENDER

Schedule	Plant	Vol. (MT)	Approved Budget for The Contract (ABC)*	Pre-bid Conference	Submission of Eligibility Docs/Bids (E-bidding)
SC1-I-CY04 (0930)	SCFTPP	5 x 65,000	US $10,903,750	Oct. 3, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm. Solarium	Oct. 21, 2003 9:30 AM Moriones Rm Solarium
MC1-I-CY04 (0903)	MCFTPP	5 x 65,000			
PC1-CY04 Blending, Low Sulfur	PCFTPP	5 x 65,000	US $10,153,000	Oct. 3, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm. Solarium	Oct. 22, 2003 9:30 AM Moriones Rm Solarium

* - *Load Tolerance not included*

The Contracts Award Committee (CAC), NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids, at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

Any inquiry regarding the above invitation shall be addressed to the undersigned.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
SVP, ME & TMS and
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Sept 12 & 13 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOTC-MRT3 Bids and Awards Committee (DOTC-MRT3 BAC) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of the following services:

	SERVICES	PROJECT COST
1	JANITORIAL SERVICES	Forty Five Million Eight Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Pesos (P45,858,000.00)
2	SECURITY SERVICES	Fifty One Million Two Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Pesos (P51,232,000.00)

Eligibility requirements will be available to all interested parties on 22 to 29 **September 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 to the Administrative Division, MRT3 Depot office, North Avenue, Cor. EDSA, North Triangle EDSA, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-eligibility documents shall not be later than **06 October 2003**.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance on 13 to **20 October 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Eligibility.

The DOTC Metrostar Express reserves the right to reject any or all of the bid proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

All particulars relative to application for eligibility and to bid, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bidding conference, evaluation of bids, post qualification of the lowest calculated bid and award of contract shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
Chairman, DOTC-MRT3 Bids and Awards Committee
Acting General Manager

(PDI - Sept 12 & 21 2003)

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Our Beloved Daddy

VIVENCIO "JUN" C. SARMIENTO JR.

Joined his Creator on September 08, 2003.

His loving wife **REGINA MADRIGAL SARMIENTO**

CHILDREN
PETER ROBERT "Bobby" & JOSEPHINE SARMIENTO
JUNE ANTOINETTE "Tonette" & DENNIS DACANAY
FERDINAND "Jackson" SONNY SARMIENTO
MARIE ELIZABETH "Lilibeth" & EDWIN MARI PEÑAS
ERIC JASON "EJ" & LORELEI SARMIENTO
KRISTINE "Lucky" SARMIENTO
DON RICO "Rico" SARMIENTO

GRANDCHILDREN
FRANCES, J.R. & KEVIN SARMIENTO,
NATHAN & NICOLAI DACANAY,
MICHAEL, MIGGY & GABBY SARMIENTO,
ANDRÉ & DWAYNE PEÑAS,
J.E., IVAN & GHIA SARMIENTO, J.J. SARMIENTO

HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, SISTERS-IN-LAW, NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS AND FRIENDS

REQUEST THE READERS TO PRAY FOR HIS ETERNAL HAPPINESS IN HEAVEN.

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT JOSE RIZAL CHAPEL OF LA FUNERARIA PAZ, MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, SUCAT, PARAÑAQUE.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003 AT 3:00 P.M.

"WE THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LOVE AND CARE THAT YOU HAVE SHOWERED US."

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

Col. NICOLAS ENCISO OJEDA, Sr., PC (Ret.)

PMA CLASS '43

Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife Lydia on September 10, 2003 at the age of 86.

His children **Mariano** (†) and **Cora**, **Jose** and **Susan**, **Lydia Marie** and **Jessie**, **Nicolas Jr.** and **Florence**, **Emmanuel** and **Lorna**, **Victoria** (†); grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the AFP LOGCOM Mortuary, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 14, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the AFP LOGCOM Chapel, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"On this Day O Beautiful Mother, We give you our love."

The Lorenzo M. Tañada Foundation
Mourns the Passing away of Their Trustee

Chona Tañada Roxas Silos

on Sept. 8, 2003 on the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity and offer its deepest sympathy to her family

Husband : **Leonardo Silos**

Children : **Ramy** & **Bo Roxas, Randy** & **Lindy Roxas, Monty** & **Tina Roxas, Jojo** & **Rica Roxas, Kim** & **Sonia Silos, Miguel Silos** & **grandchildren**

Her Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:
Tito & **Zeny Tañada, Bobby** & **Zeny Tañada, Myrna** & **Willie Sanchez, Millette** & **Adrian Ocampo, Tessie** & **Carlos Yam, Learny** & **Baba Tañada**

Her body lies in state at the Capilla de La Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM Sept. 12, 2003.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

RODRIGO "DIGO" S. GAMBOA

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 10, 2003 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Lily**; children **Eric** & **Malu**, **Ronsard** & **Annalyn**, **Rina** & **Ernie**, **Rainer** & **Jenny**, **Mara**, grandchildren and relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 422 D. Vicencio St., Bgy. Sta. Lucia, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 14, 2003 at the Santuario Del Sto. Cristo Cemetery, San Juan, Metro Manila after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

I can do all things in Him who strengthens me"

Our Dearly Beloved

REBECCA TADIFA DUCUSIN

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord on the 24th day of August 2003 at the age of 53

She is survived by her mother **Hilaria**; brother **Cris Jr.**, sisters **Consolacion Ducusin, FSP**, **Zeny** & **Max Nieto**, **Gie** & **Billy Liwanag**, **Ophelia** & **Euclid Parra**, nephews, nieces and relatives. We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City. Tel. Nos. 645-1845/55

Interment will be on Thursday, September 18, 2003 at Manila Mem. Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 A.M. Holy Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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"Come to Me and I will give you rest....." Matthew 11:28

In loving Memory of

ATTY. EUGENIO V. GUILLERMO

July 8, 1916 - August 3, 2003

His wife **Odette** (†); his daughters **Linda** (†) and **Ching**; sons-in-law **Fil** and **Stan**; grandchildren **Patty, Lisa** & **Eric, Tinky, Noel** & **Argene** request family, associates and friends to join them for Holy Mass on the occasion of his 40th day since joining his Creator.

September 12, 2003, Friday at 7:00 p.m.,
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church,
Magallanes Village, Makati City.

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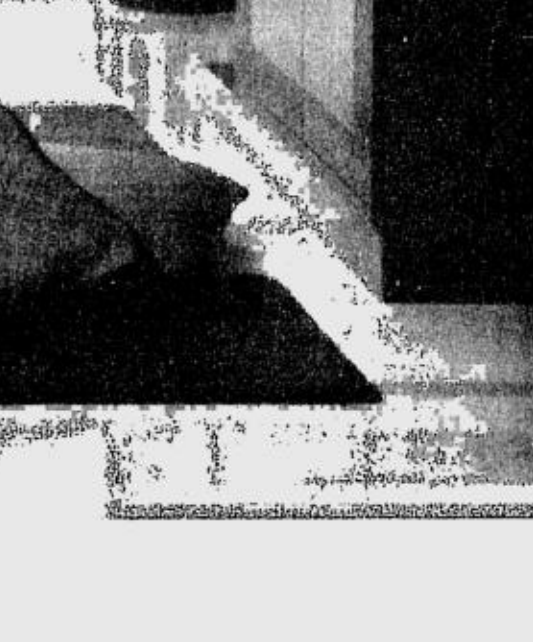

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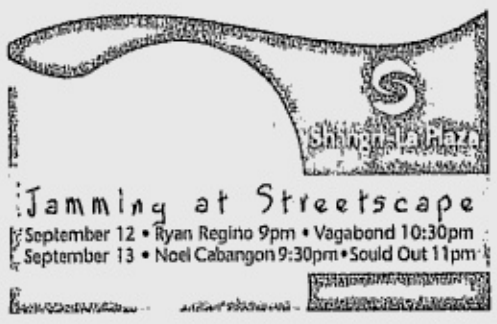

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SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

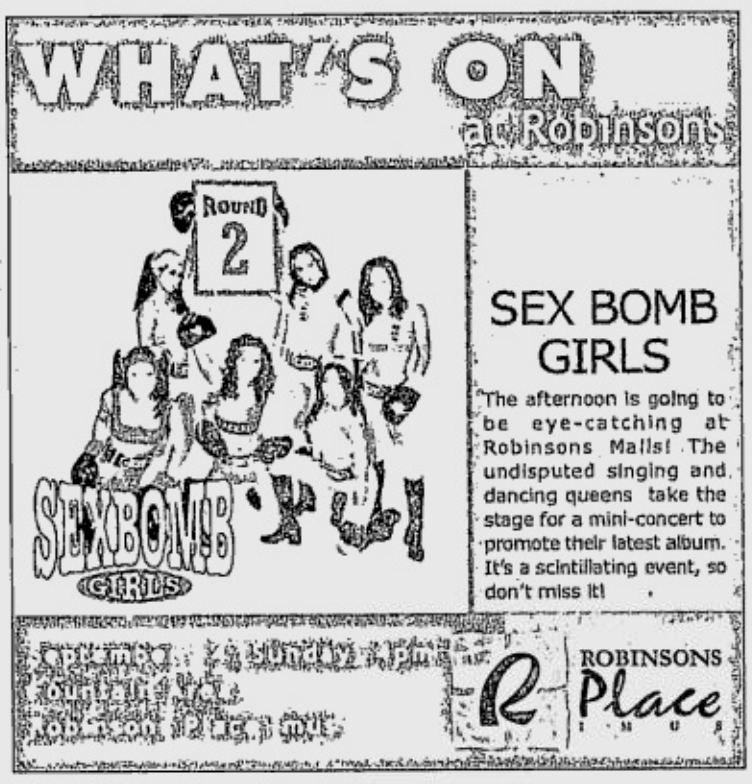
Fall's best and the rest

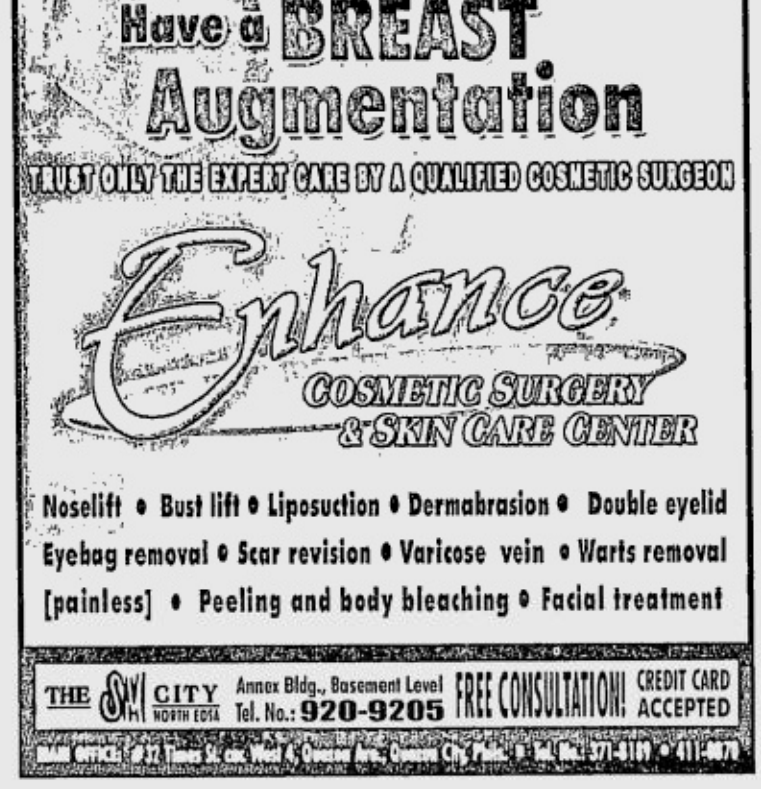
By Kitty Go
Contributor

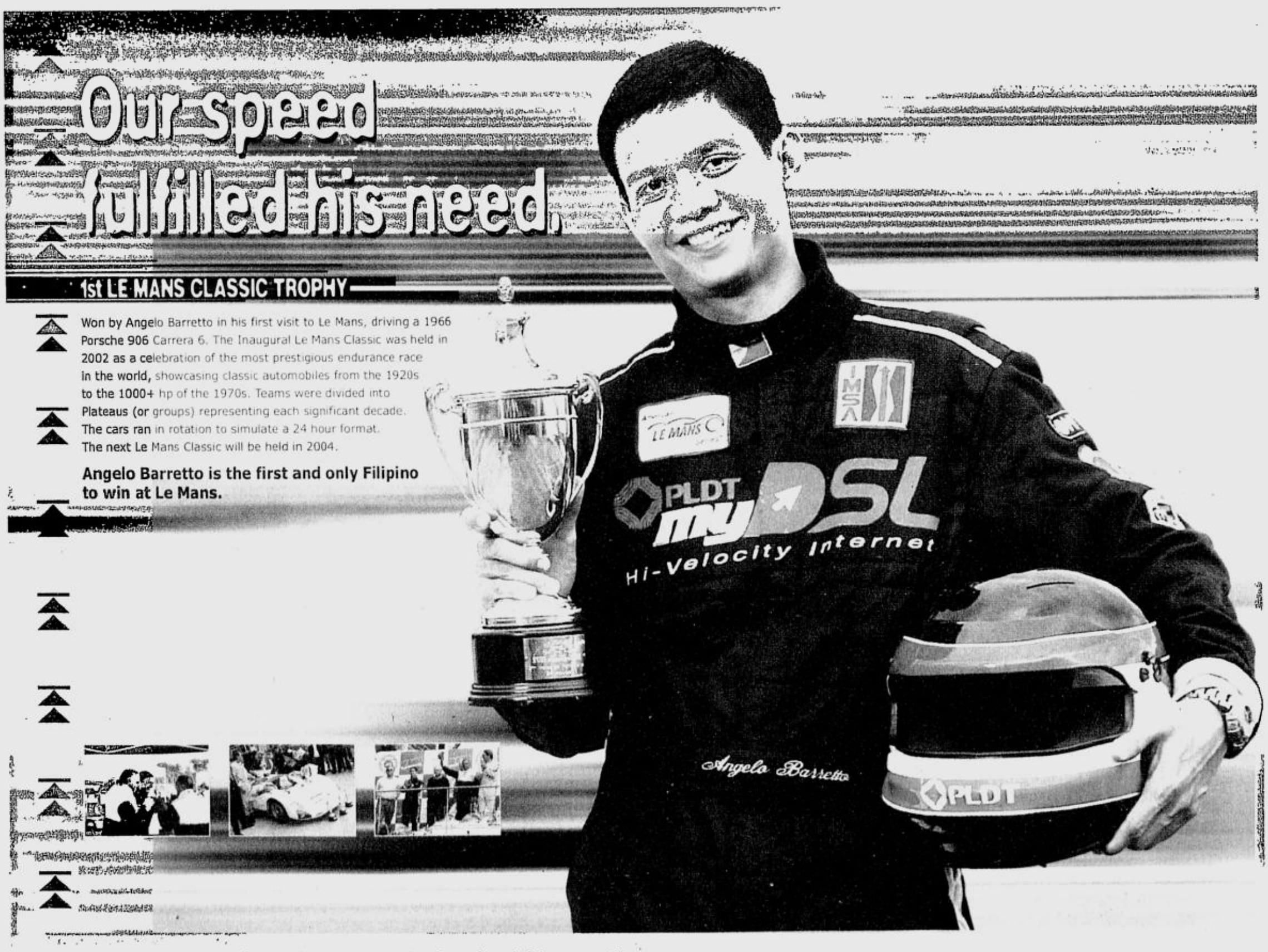
A FRIEND came back from a three-week holiday in the United States and said that she bought nothing but "basic stuff from Abercrombie and Fitch and a pair of new season Prada alligator mules." Her buying pattern, a combination of cheap and (quiveringly) chic, may reflect the potential backlash to the confusing state of retail for fall. With so many looks —punk, '40s and '50s ladylike tweeds, flamenco, armor, menswear, '60s mode, leggings (to wear

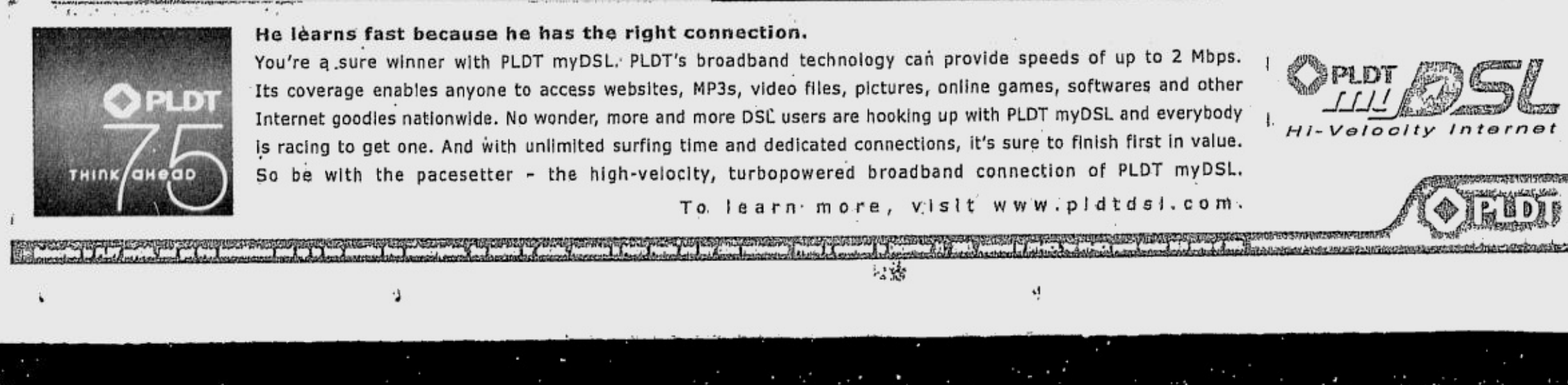
FALL'S/ C2

MUST-HAVE Manolo Blahnik leopard print pony hair calf sandal, at Wish

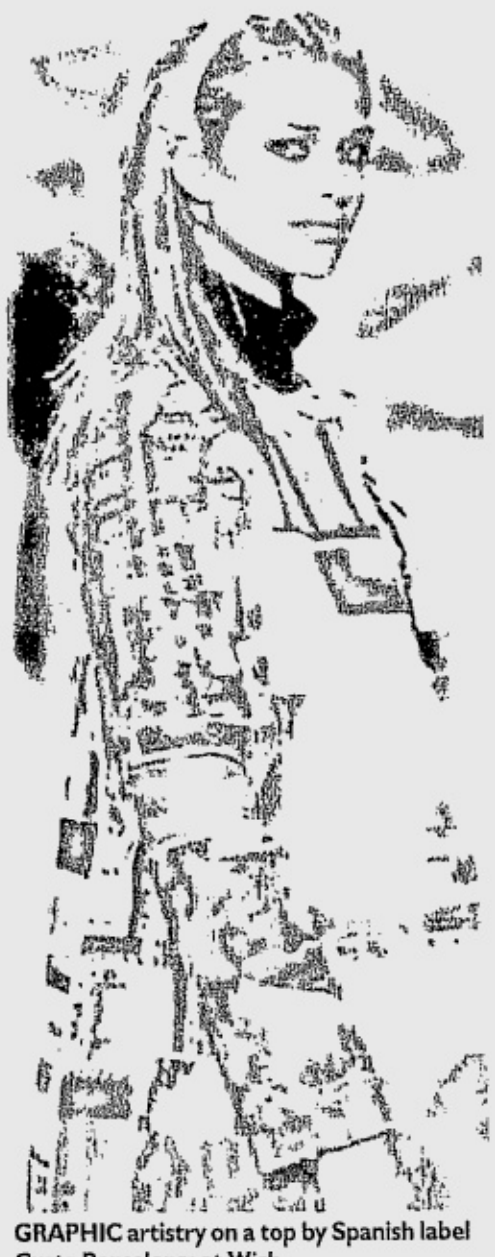






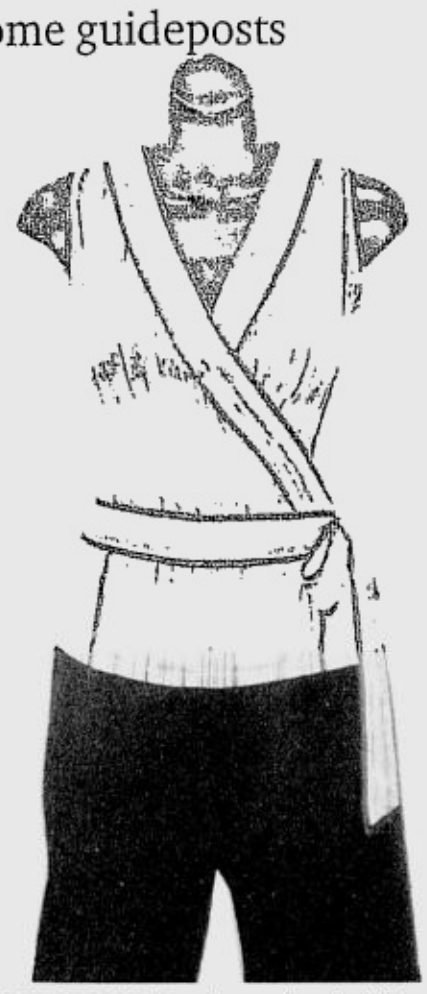


Fall's best and the rest



GRAPHIC artistry on a top by Spanish label Custo Barcelona; at Wish

You may get lost in the heterogeneity of fashion. Here are some guideposts



SCENE-STEALING stripes on banded silk blouse in rustic tones, at K & Co

BALENCIAGA balloons into style: Parachute fabric becomes a suit in this season's hottest label; at Homme et Femme

From page C1

or not to wear, that is the fashion victim's question)—and most everything being a rehash of something worn somewhere between 20 and 50 years ago, even the savviest shopper would lose her way.

Planning a fall wardrobe in the Philippines is like building a log cabin in Tagaytay or Baguio—where's the snow and the nearest bunny slope? However, every dedicated follower of fashion must have something new to wear, whether newly bought or resurrected from high school. As they say in the fashion business, fall is where real dressing up happens. It is also where the real spending occurs in colder climates for everything from functional Goretex-lined outerwear to fabulous but totally vain (and cruel!) chinchilla capes. In Southeast Asia, we do not have the pleasure of single-digit temperatures, but we can't possibly be left behind by the fashion pack of the West.

Fall in Asia

There are certain rules for dressing during the "colder" (about two degrees below 38 °C) months in Asia, and they are, at least for me: no leather clothing (very corrupt-government official look), no high boots (very Quezon City hooker) and no tweeds (very displaced, sweaty Englishman in Makati). Tweed is getting a push slightly gentler than a battering ram during a drug raid, but just because you can't wear it doesn't mean you can't own it in the form of an accessory, such as shoes or bags; Louis Vuitton, Prada, Miu Miu, Tod's and other luxury labels have purses in tweed with leather, silk, python and even mink.

If you are like me who is banned from shopping for the next 10 years because I came back this summer overweight and overextended—as in baggage and credit, respectively—then you will be happy to know that there are several key looks this fall that you may unearth somewhere in your closet. But who can resist something new? Despite the shopping ban, I have pared down fall's trends to suit our climate, scoured the shops with the eye of an editor and came up with five picks that would get you through this season (if you could call it that).

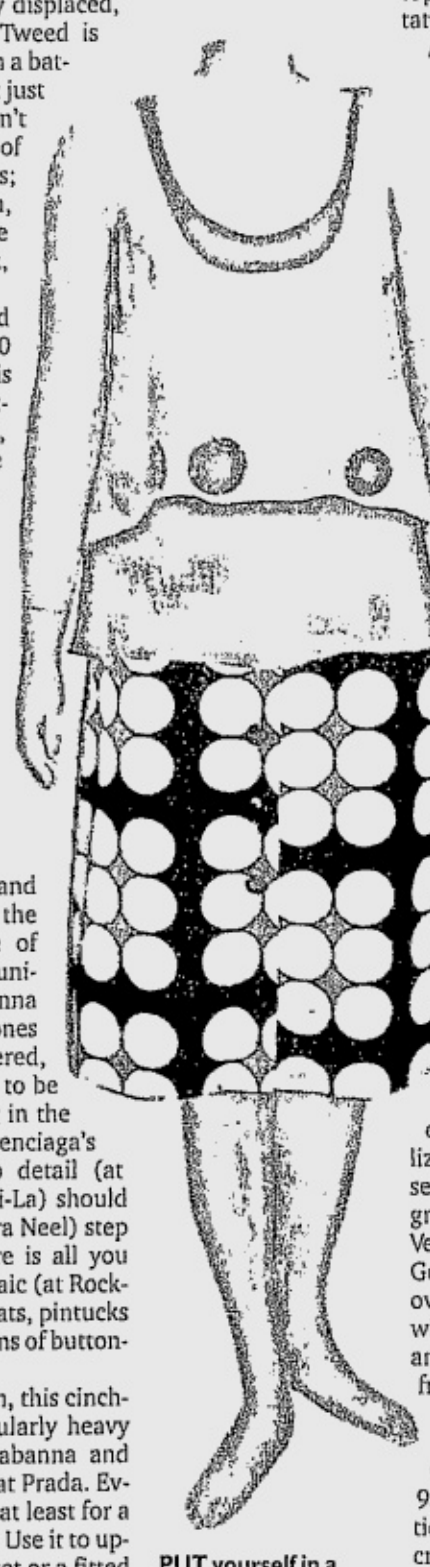
Practical key looks

White shirt. Don't everyone and her jilted lover (who she stole the shirt from) have (or had) one of these at least from a high school uniform? Look to Dolce and Gabanna and Viktor and Rolf for dramatic ones with oversized bows or multi-layered, face framing collars. If you want to be current but not entrance-making in the Tessa Prieto fashion, then Balenciaga's white shirt with a collar strap detail (at Homme et Femme, Edsa Shangri-La) should keep you in (a sprightly Alexandra Neel) step with fashion. Sometimes, texture is all you need to update a basic body. Mosaic (at Rockwell) has blouses in starburst pleats, pintucks and sleeve treatments on variations of button-down long-sleeve shirts.

Skinny belt. For some reason, this cinches everything this fall, particularly heavy wool coats at Dolce and Gabanna and Louis Vuitton, and even fur at Prada. Every woman must have one at least for a singular fashion moment. Use it to update a short cotton jacket or a fitted shirt. This may be the time to bring out your vintage double G-Gucci belts or get a new one in a different color!

Graphic/geometric design. In the past three years, floral prints had a stronger presence than newsprint, but like all good things, those, too, have to end. If there is any print that is more out than Anthony Castelo, it has to be florals. All is not lost, however, for those who love florals and colors, because there is Leonard, the last bastion of bold, colorful and oversize floral prints that has been creeping into every stylish woman's wardrobe.

COSTUME NATIONAL puts *bella* in basic with pink five-pocket corduroy jeans; at Homme et Femme.



PUT yourself in a fashion spot: Marni's OpArt ensemble sets you apart yet ahead of the fashion pilgrimage; at Homme et Femme

Although a store is due to open sometime this month on 170 Sloane St. in London, colorful, swirly Pucci-type prints are winding down their day and may not be as hip as they were a year or two ago except for the beach (which they were originally designed for).

Enter: graphics. Like a patient lover, graphics have always been in the background every season, but everyone except for the more independent went for florals or Pucci. Designer Ely Kishimoto has been showing graphics first as textile prints to the decorating and fashion trade before having his own line. One of the first fall deliveries Paul Smith (at Glorietta, Makati, and Edsa Shangri-La) made in London were graphic shift dresses.

Anything that has at least two contrasting colors (preferably black and white) should add punch to your current wardrobe. A ruched and graphic top from hip Spanish label Custo Barcelona (at Wish, 6750 Ayala Avenue and Gaysorn Plaza 1F-16, Bangkok) polishes jeans or a basic skirt. Wearing a graphic top and bottom, however, may be too "Yakuza tattoo art" for anyone's taste.

A graphic Marni three-piece set of a taupe silk shell with a mushroom and taupe silk tank, with "cookie"-colored plastic details and a matching silk cut-out skirt (at Homme et Femme), should put you ahead of some patrons of the London Marni store that opened only a few weeks ago on 26 Sloane St. Stripes have not left the scene at all as long as they are bold and multicolored, such as K & Co's (Rockwell and Edsa Shangri-La) banded silk blouse in bold stripes in a choice of rustic or cool tones.

Katherine Ong, owner and designer of K & Co, is banking on mixing cool and warm tones and promises customers a totally different line from former deliveries. "They will see a lot of unusual colors put together like salmon, blue and dark brown, orange palettes mixed with earth tones."

Likewise, checks, animal, OpArt and oversized dots need not be limited to clothing. Bags, shoes, belts or even jewelry in any of those themes instantly update reliable pieces that have been the backbone of your closet.

Exotic skins. If there is only one thing that you can buy this season, make it an accessory in the form of shoes (like the international fashion must-have of crocodile mules or pumps in chocolate, mustard or forest green from Prada), a purse or bag in an exotic skin (or the looks of it)—alligator, lizard, crocodile, python, salmon (yes—last season John Galliano used it at Dior), shagreen from sting rays (at Dunhill and Bottega Veneta last year). Natori (at Wish) has the Geisha bag, a sumptuous alligator embossed oversize satchel, while in late October Gucci will have chain flap clutches in python, and Ferragamo, sexy, slinky fringed python bags.

Rambutan (32 11th St., New Manila, or call Chat Fores at 0918 9398013) has a selection of brightly colored croc-stamped calf and suede clutches with beaded handles and zipper pulls. For those slightly chilly nights in your "log cabin" in Baguio, curl up with a scroll embroidered cashmere and silk shawl with fur trim also from Natori, and warm your feet with roll-up deerskin or calf moccasins from Bottega Veneta (late October).

Skinny trousers. Slim cut and waist to ankle-hugging pants are meant to go with oversized sweaters that warmed up the fall runways, but seeing as this will not work in the tropics, a fabulous shirt preferably with unusual details like oversized cuffs, bodice details or a dramatic collar should top off this silhouette that was just waiting to explode after years of the wide-legged trousers classically worn by Katherine Hepburn, but popularized (and bastardized, I'm afraid) by hip-hoppers from the 'hood.

Malu Francisco of Store Specialists Inc. (SSI) says their Gucci clients are agog over skinny pants, and merchandisers recommend this as a top buy for fall to wear with shrunken tops and jackets (delivery in late October).

Costume National (Homme et Femme at Edsa Shangri-La) has pale pink corduroy ones that make a refreshing change from black. "[It] spells what's happening this season—unexpected colors, a very modern take on indispensable clothing and accessories," says Jappy Gonzalez, co-owner and buyer of Homme et Femme. However, if you absolutely positively must wear black and accept no substitutes, then at least buy it in an unusual style in satin such as K & Co's with a curved waistband, very slim legs and a 3" back slit for sexy comfort.

BLACK AND WHITE contrast in printed silk chiffon dress with wide waistband and slimming bias skirt, at K & Co

And finally, two last things which may not be for everyone (not that skinny trousers are!): Huge ruffles in space-occupying and fabric-wasting flamenco-style that make tuxedo shirts look like basics, and cutesy ruffles of past seasons that look like fringes were seen last season at Viktor and Rolf's jackets and Oscar de la Renta's skirts. This fall, they are all over the place, from Dior's flamenco skirt which John Galliano topped with a cardigan (or throw on a cotton shrunken jacket like one carried at Mosaic), to Hanae Mori's ruffled jacket lapels and Givenchy's tiered cape. Brightly colored hose instantly takes the basic out of your little black dress. It may be hot in the tropics, but the best part is, if you can't take the heat, then take them off!

Five must-haves

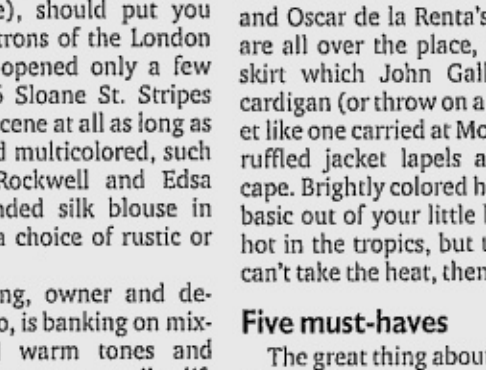
The great thing about fashion and makeup, unlike plastic surgery, is that you can be anything at any time and become a different person with the change of an outfit or a mere accessory. Most of all, as Katherine Ong says, "It is about confidence and also being feminine at the same time."

"Customers will be more concerned now more than ever to look great. This year has been a tough time for business due to politics resulting in an unstable economy," says Jappy Gonzalez. "Somehow people expect to find relief, almost as though we are all waiting to exhale." Many may indeed be waiting to exhale with me for my five personal faves for the 3rd quarter deliveries of 2003:

1. Balenciaga's mix of homeboy jacket in parachute material and a wool gabardine origami pleated skirt certainly is one of the useful, directional pieces Jappy Gonzalez believes summarizes the new selection at Homme et Femme.

2. The printed silk chiffon dress from K & Co has some of the most important elements of fall: a wide waistband, black and white combination and a functional bow (like at Givenchy and Hanae Mori) around the neck with a slimming bias skirt.

3. Every fabulous chick loves leopard, and Manolo Blahnik's leopard print pony hair calf sandal at Wish releases the Jackie Collins in you. You may be teetering on 4½ inch heels held together by wide ankle straps and rhinestone buckles, but who said anything about walking?

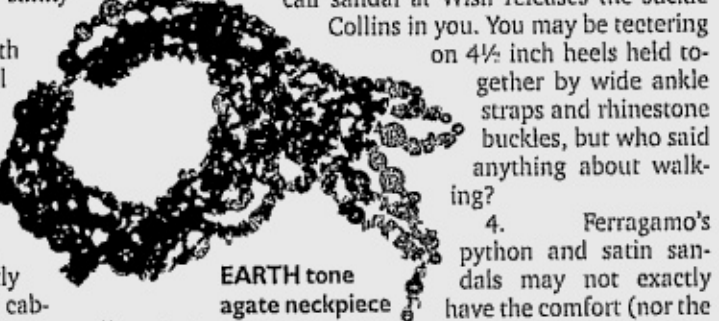


EARTH tone agate neckpiece

4. Ferragamo's python and satin sandals may not exactly have the comfort (nor the look!) of Birkenstocks, but they'll surely make a basic linen tropical garb, topical.

5. And finally, I've saved the best for last. The object of my desire and the reason my husband may leave me: Bottega Veneta's handwoven basket weave Cabas tote in buttery soft leather. It melts in your hands; your mouth will water for it and your heart will ache for it. Eight months to make in small and limited deliveries... Like marriage (or endearing gay friendships), it is not just for now but forever.

E-mail the author at kitty_go@hotmail.com



FERRAGAMO'S python and satin sandals

WHEN you want to make a quiet entrance: Tab-collared white shirt by Balenciaga by Nicholas Ghesquire, at Homme et Femme

Wesma-crafted jewelry in brilliant stones and crystals aspire to the status of pricier gems

JOAN Canonizado

MARINA Benipayo

GLYDEL Mercado

ROMINA Urra

Redefining fine jewelry

KUKU Trinidad

JEWELRY BY WESY QUISIMBING
CLOTHES BY ARIELLE AGASANG

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

WESMA, the new watch and jewelry brand created by Cebu jewelry designer Wesy Quisumbing, is attempting what amounts to a redefinition of fine jewelry. The palely translucent, uniquely extracted brilliant stones and crystals, crafted into sumptuous, extravagant designs of impeccable workmanship, aspire to the status now enjoyed by rarer and pricier gems.

This, of course, can be a protracted battle for minds conditioned by centuries to regard fine jewelry in a certain way. However, Wesma's recent show at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel ballroom offered a hopeful start.

Together with the sensually classic couture of young designer Arielle Agasang, Wesma heartily appealed to the fine sensibilities of Manila's fashionable set, showing how meticulous designs, milky colors and translucent sheen can speak of elegance.

Aided by two large screens, which showed Wesma's fine and meticulous detailing to best effect, the discriminating audience was presented with the myriad ways Wesma could flatter both women and men. Whether accentuating lavish gold brocade bustier gowns or formal menswear, Wesma's ornate pieces complemented, never competed with, the clothes.

Multicolored multi-pendant necklaces sculpted into large florals, swirls, foliage, various geometric shapes, and animal- and plant-like patterns blended seamlessly with draped and flowing jersey, metallic brocade, bright Pucci arabesques and intensely chromatic organza.

Wesma's single pendants on cord chains went particularly well with loungey men's vests and loose pants, or crisp polo shirts and slacks.

Watches were striking accent pieces in themselves, coming in various shapes (squares, ovals and the traditional rounds), with Wesma-gem links or with top-grade metallic bracelets.

Agasang, for his part, never strayed far from classic-with-a-twist silhouettes, turning out fluid black jersey gowns with striking touches like diagonal slits on the bodice or dangerously dipping decolletes, or bustiered evening wear with variations like wide palazzo pants.

He also paid homage to the Filipino *terno* in brightly colored organza blouses with huge butterfly sleeves, paired with appliquéd short skirts in jewel tones (this imaginative stroke brought a smile to guest of honor Imelda Marcos, sitting center front with Wesy Q.).

CHRIS Celis

His formal wear had that ageless quality that would make women who love fine jewelry hyperventilate—the fabrics rich and satiny, the cuts sensually sophisticated, the details surprising and electrifying.

The clothes, whether it is host Bianca Araneta's bronze brocade off-shoulder gown with a stiff bodice and flowing skirt, or a svelte model's midnight-blue gathered column highlighted by Wesma brooches, showed elegance and restraint only few young designers would be capable of.

Actor Tonton Gutierrez looked dapper and debonair in a deep chocolate-brown satin long coat as he played the part of groom to his real-life bride-elect Glydel Mercado, who modeled a romantic wedding gown with fully tiered skirt and sweeping sleeves. A dramatic cape completed the ensemble.

The Wesma-Agasang pairing is an ideal one—handsome, elegant, colorful jewelry and sophisticated watches for all occasions and finely executed couture for a night of dazzle.

Three new breakthrough beauty products

AVON, the worldwide authority on skincare and cosmetics, is reinforcing its beauty leadership and its commitment to meet the beauty needs of women everywhere through three new breakthrough products: Avon Solutions Cellu-Sculpt Body Treatment, Anew Line and Wrinkle Corrector and Avon Color Double Impact Lipcolor.

Avon Solutions Cellu-Sculpt Body Treatment is Avon's answer to the unsightly and very embarrassing "dimpled" thigh or "orange peel" skin that comes with too much fat and cellulite around the thighs and buttocks.

This revolutionary product helps reduce thigh circumference up to one inch in four weeks—even without exercise—and reduces cellulite by as much as 60 percent after eight weeks of continued use. And unlike other competitive products, the treatment not only reduces cellulite but also prevents further buildup.

Anew Line and Wrinkle Corrector, on the other hand, is a tool to help the modern woman fight aging every step of the way. This breakthrough product features Derma-fil Technology, an ingredient complex that penetrates deep into the skin's surface layers and rebuilds the skin's three key dimensions, namely: collagen (which creates a firmer and stronger skin foundation), elastin (which promotes skin resiliency and elasticity), and hydroprotein (which boosts skin density to minimize creasing).

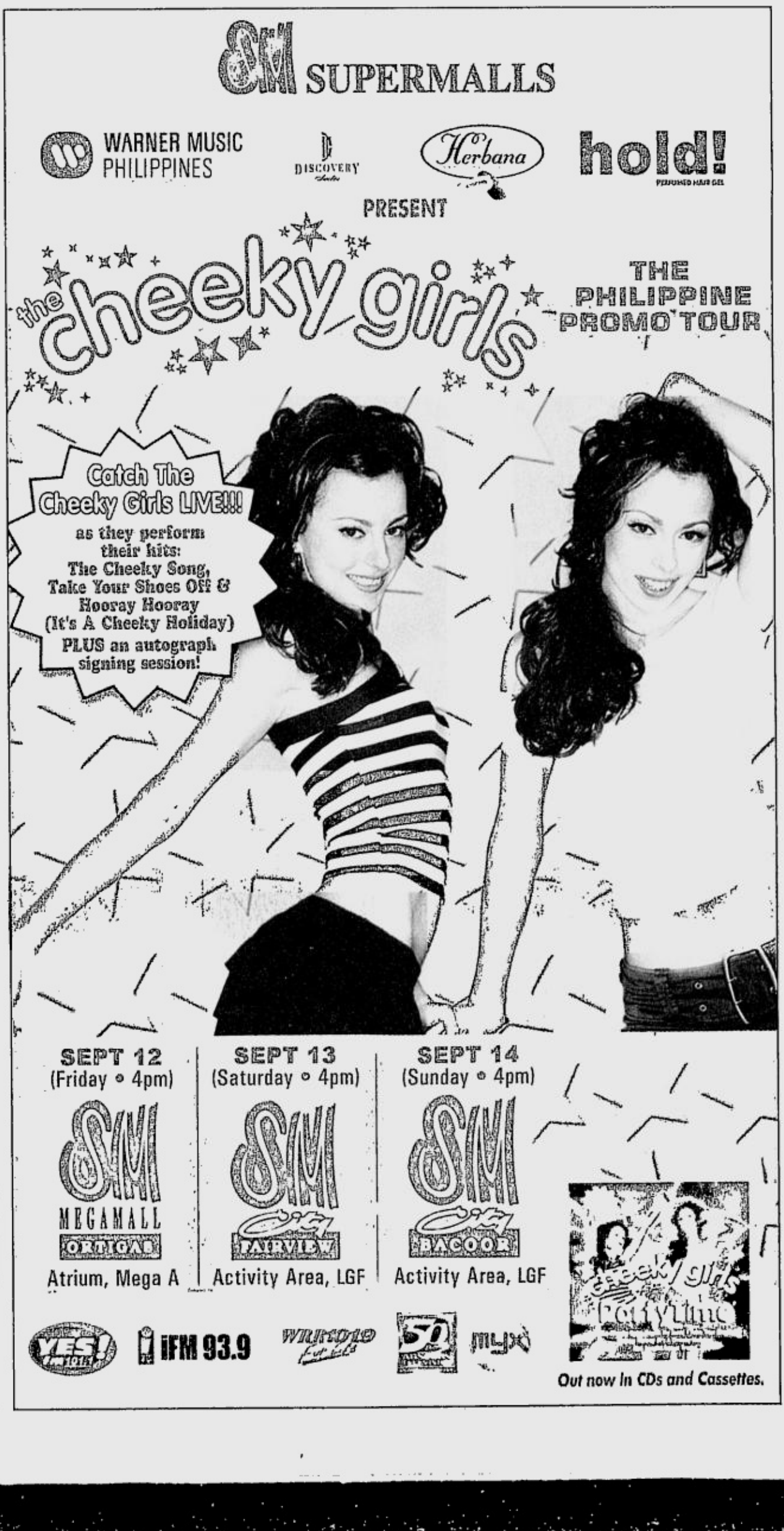
These dimensions erode with age, causing deeply etched lines and wrinkles. But while other anti-aging products zero in only one of the dimensions, Anew Line and Wrinkle Corrector helps rebuild all three.

Avon's third new product this year is the Avon Color Double Impact Lipcolor, which gives double the color, double the comfort in just one sweep. This is because it has double the colorants found in traditional lipsticks, and is also infused with moisturizers to keep lips soft and healthy. Result: Lips get knockout intense color without the heavy waxy feel.

Avon Color Double Impact Lipcolor comes in six shades—bronzette, raisin, cocoplum, red, coral and rose—to satisfy any mood, personality or fantasy.

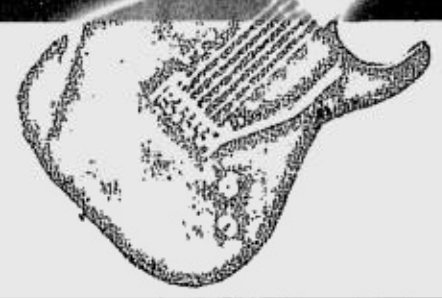
Anew Line and Wrinkle Corrector will be available in November, while Avon Solutions Cellu-Sculpt Body Treatment and Avon Colors Double Impact Lipcolor are now available from Avon Ladies nationwide and at the Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and Ali Mall.

AVON Solutions Cellu-Sculpt Body Treatment



WASHBURN

What A Great Guitar Should Be



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Ultra feminine glam by the foot

LOUIS Vuitton goes provocative and inventive with its women shoe collection for Fall/Winter 2003.

The line features designs that can go from city walking to weekend getaways.

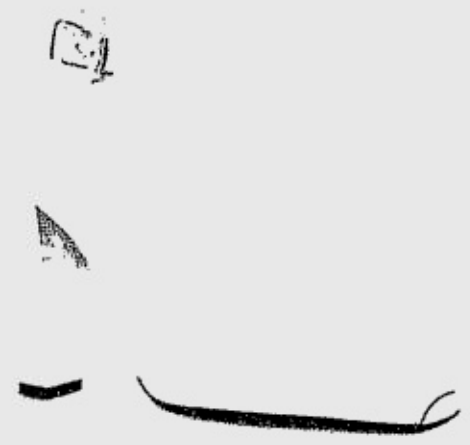
The ankle boot in pink or black patent leather calfskin is conceived in a modern spirit with graphic shapes. Color highlights bring into focus contrasting shapes and materials, while the square and metallic toe suggests a glamorous, futuristic style.

The Cherry Blossom created by Japanese artist Takashi Murakami for Louis Vuitton is revisited this season for an evening line. Very luxurious, the pink or brown monogram silk satin brings a playful touch to the ballerina-style shoe, a Louis Vuitton icon.

Already featured in leather goods the past season, the Suhali leather is in this season's plum and black shoes. The ultra feminine pump showcases an elongated and sexy line.

The "S" lock calfskin riding boot, whose accessories bring to mind the famous Trunk Maker, are in keeping with a more wintery trend.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is at 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Visit the website at www.vuitton.com.



PATENT calfskin ankle boot

MONOGRAM satin Cherry Blossom ballerina

ROBBY Mananquil

Credit card for hip, dynamic individuals

ONE wonders how top fashion model Robby Mananquil, a big success at a young age, manages his finances.

Mananquil says he spends wisely and maintains both a time deposit account and a savings account. And he uses a more convenient way of paying for his purchases via his Citibank Clear credit card.

"It's quite handy especially when you go abroad, and you don't have to worry about not having enough cash during emergencies," says Mananquil. "And it's also very stylish," he adds, referring to the card's unique translucent design.

Lately, what Mananquil has been enjoying the most with his card is the ongoing free upsize promotion at all Starbucks branches. Order any coffee blend at Starbucks, pay for it using the Citibank Clear card, and your order is automatically upsized.

Indeed, the Citibank Clear card is a must-have accessory for hip and dynamic individuals like Mananquil, packed as it is with exclusive perks in over 60 shopping, dining and party places.

Bigen Speedy Conditioning Color

Color & Covering gray in 10 min.

"Now I'm never too busy to color my hair."
Alice Dixson

Speedy

Now you can cover gray hair quickly and easily!
Bigen Speedy!
• Get your new hair color in just 10 minutes!
• Applies easily and effectively with the unique, dual-purpose comb/brush
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• Available in 7 exciting colors

HOYU No. 1 hair color in Japan

Tailored to endure and prevail

Bergamo has been bucking the RTW trend for more than 15 years now with flawless tailoring

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jay Javier

DESPITE the surfeit of ready-to-wear brands in the market, a number of big names in the tailoring business have managed to thrive. Bergamo is one such establishment that continues to buck the trend by catering to a high-end clientele with "special" requests.

Mel Meer, president of Bergamo, believes that there will always be a demand for good, custom-tailored clothes in an age dominated by off-the-rack suits and shirts by the likes of Hugo Boss, Giorgio Armani, Cerrutti, Paul Smith, Salvatore Ferragamo and Gucci.

"We'll always be around," he says, "simply because there are still men out there who aren't happy wearing RTW [clothes]. Tailoring shops cater to people's special requests, particularly those with less-than-perfect bodies."

But one doesn't have to be as short as Frodo Baggins or as huge as Hagrid to fall under this "special" category. Some clients, for instance, want a particular color, fabric, cut or embroidery (in the case of the barong Tagalog), which mass producers don't usually offer.

Bergamo, for instance, offers clients a wide selection of embroidery patterns. Since a well-trained team embroiders a piece of fabric by machine, the shop can finish a linen barong within less than 24 hours.

"Linen barongs and shirts are quite common nowadays," says Meer, "but I'm proud to say that we started the trend."

And Bergamo's clients aren't necessarily old people stuck in a time warp, he adds. They cut across body types, generations, professions and even lifestyles. But a bulk of Meer's clientele admittedly belongs to the more mature and established group in their thirties and above.

Fabric service

Clients need not go to Divisoria to look of the perfect "tela." As an added service, Bergamo carries a wide range of fabrics that are either imported or made of imported materials.

Meer also takes pride in the fact that, except for *jusi*, the fabrics they carry such as cotton, linen, *piña* and wool blend are made of "natural" fibers.

"Depending on the fabric," he says, "a custom-tailored suit is usually much cheaper than a branded one. We offer decent, made-to-order suits for as low as P10,000."

Oddly enough, Bergamo first opened in 1986, several months after the Edsa Revolution, a time when custom-tailored clothes were beginning to lose their appeal over heavily advertised RTW brands.

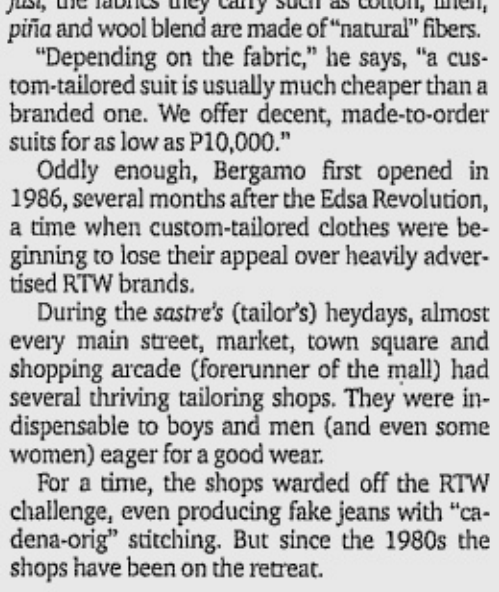
During the *sastre's* (tailor's) heydays, almost every main street, market, town square and shopping arcade (forerunner of the mall) had several thriving tailoring shops. They were indispensable to boys and men (and even some women) eager for a good wear.

For a time, the shops warded off the RTW challenge, even producing fake jeans with "cadena-orig" stitching. But since the 1980s the shops have been on the retreat.

New York mind

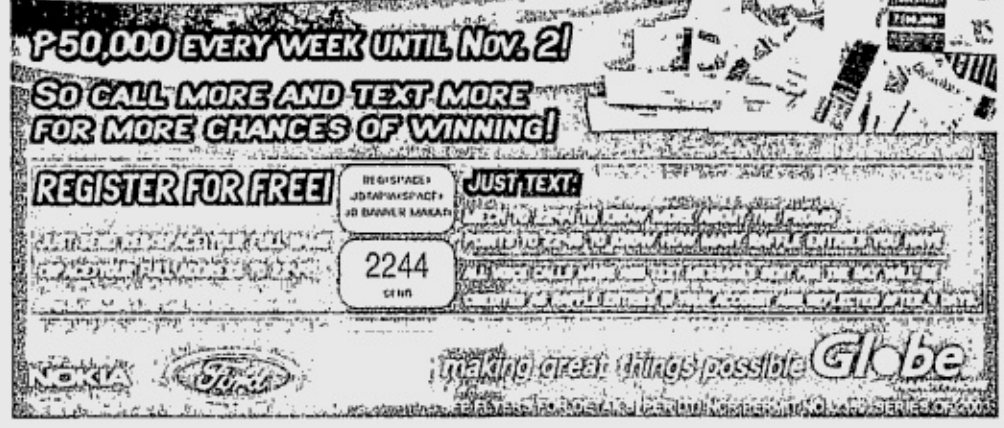
After living in New York for 20 years, Meer decided to come home for good to set up his own boutique. While an accountant in the Big Apple, he had also dabbled in interior design.

TAILORED/ D4

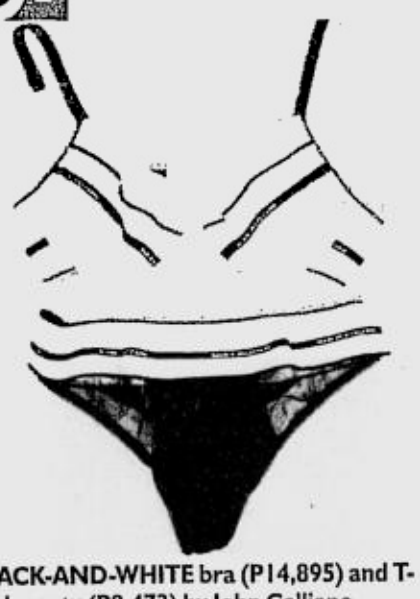


READ MY LIPS. He slips into a long version of a double-breasted tuxedo suit made of English wool, with peak lapel in black satin silk. The tuxedo shirt is 100-percent cotton, while the bowtie and cummerbund are made of silk (P25,000 for the entire ensemble).

NORDIC DREAM. Norwegian model Cristian Waaler basks by the poolside in a single-breasted, four-button Japanese linen suit in powder blue (P10,000) over a white linen shirt (P1,450).



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2003



BLACK-AND-WHITE bra (P14,895) and T-back panty (P8,473) by John Galliano

BLACK bra and panty set with red and gray glitters (P9,220) by La Perla

BLACK tank and panty set with pink ribbon accents (P1,153) by Sobimilla Milano

RED bra (P4,983) and T-back panty (P2,683) with embossed Dior print

FLORAL and paisley print bra (P6,772) and T-back panty (P3,194), both by Christian Dior

VIA Mode satin nightgown with lace trim, P7,504 (above) and lace-trimmed floral-print nightie (P25,418) by John Galliano (below)

Nights in nice satin

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

THIS store has got women covered—or barely.

The comfort of cotton, the luxurious feel of silk and the sensuousness of satin come together in one tiny enclave that's sure to seduce women—and even men—into its confines.

Lingerie Suonos just opened its doors in Glorietta 2 Makati at the same location where another lingerie store used to stand. But while the previous occupant used to sell campy Taiwan-made undies, the owners of Lingerie Suonos chose to bring in an exclusive upscale range of intimate apparel: The by-word of intimate fashion La Perla; signature labels Christian Dior and Escada; and British designer John Galliano's own line, to name just a few.

With such distinguished brands, we don't need to tell you the price tags could make temperatures rise. But if the sight of you in Suonos' lingerie heats up the romance between you and your honey, then every single peso spent for each precious thread in each scanty piece is totally worth it. For some women, the precious feeling of being wrapped in the sexiest lace or satin underneath a staid power suit is in itself its sweetest reward.

There's something to suit each woman's taste and, well, intent: From virginal whites to vampy reds to sexy blacks to bashful pinks to a myriad of whimsical prints.

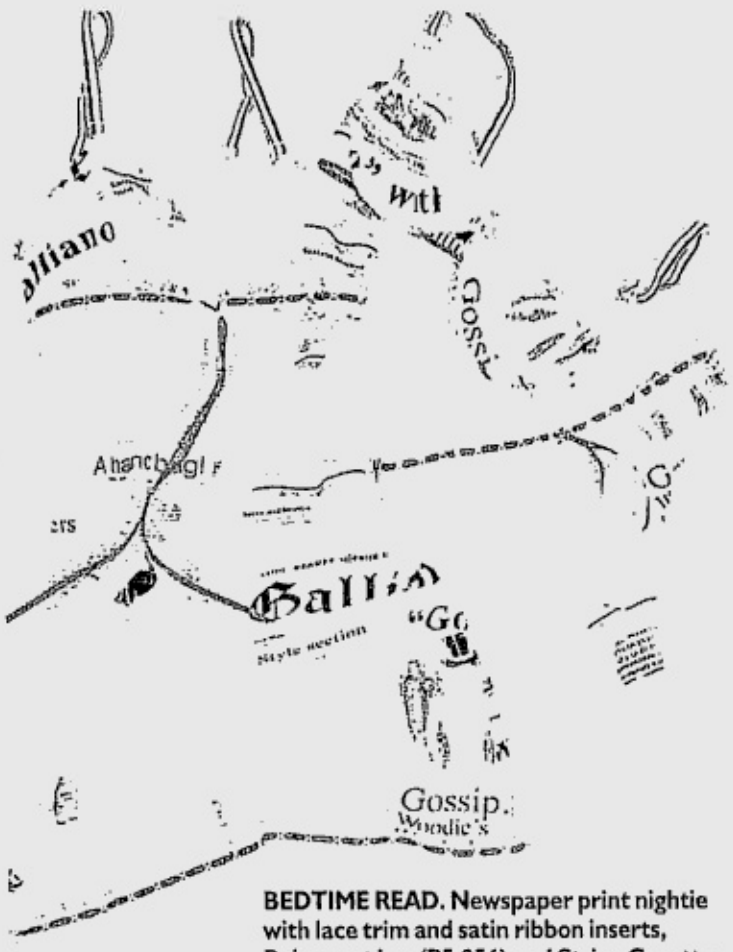
Lingerie Suonos has long, slinky nightgowns in sumptuous satins, flirtatious short nighties, schoolgirl tank and panty sets with ribbon details, tempting teddies, and brassieres and panties of every imaginable cut and material. It's a one-stop shop for boudoir pieces with a range of lace stocking garters and silk dressing robes, and quick "solutions" like binders, corsets, girdles and disposable adhesive bras. There's also a wide selection of swimwear (from maillots to two-piece numbers) and beach accessories like short and full sarong wraps.

Virgin or temptress? No matter what a woman wants to be in private, Lingerie Suonos has her covered.

Lingerie Suonos is located on the 2/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 812-4440

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Dream a little dream in lingerie by La Perla, Christian Dior, Escada and Galliano from the exclusive and upscale Suonos



BEDTIME READ. Newspaper print nightie with lace trim and satin ribbon inserts, Balconnet bra (P5,056) and String Gazette panty (P4,920), all by John Galliano

RED satin nightgown with floral lace appliqué by La Perla (P9,753), white lace bra (foreground, P5,877) by Christian Dior and white Hanro lace bra (P2,676)

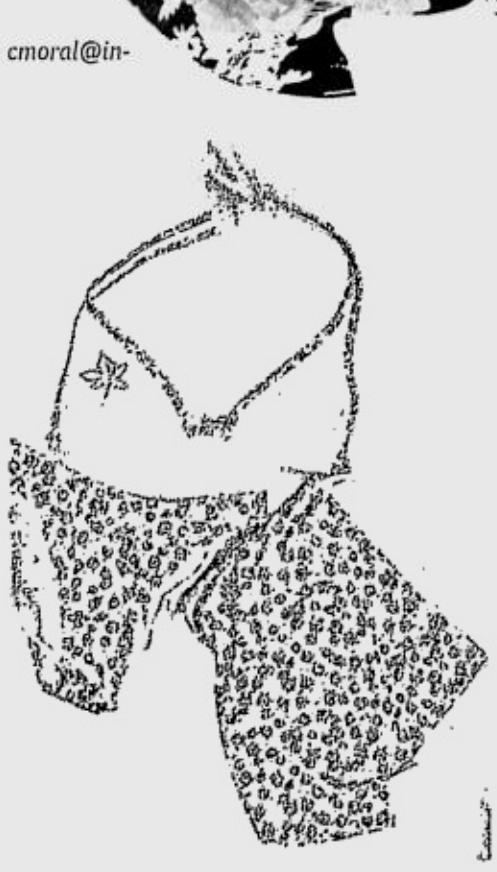
ANIMAL-PRINT and lace teddy (P7,786) by Escada

FLORAL night tanks (P717 each) from Malizia by La Perla

TWO-PIECE swimwear with ruffle trim (P4,096) by Sobimilla Milano

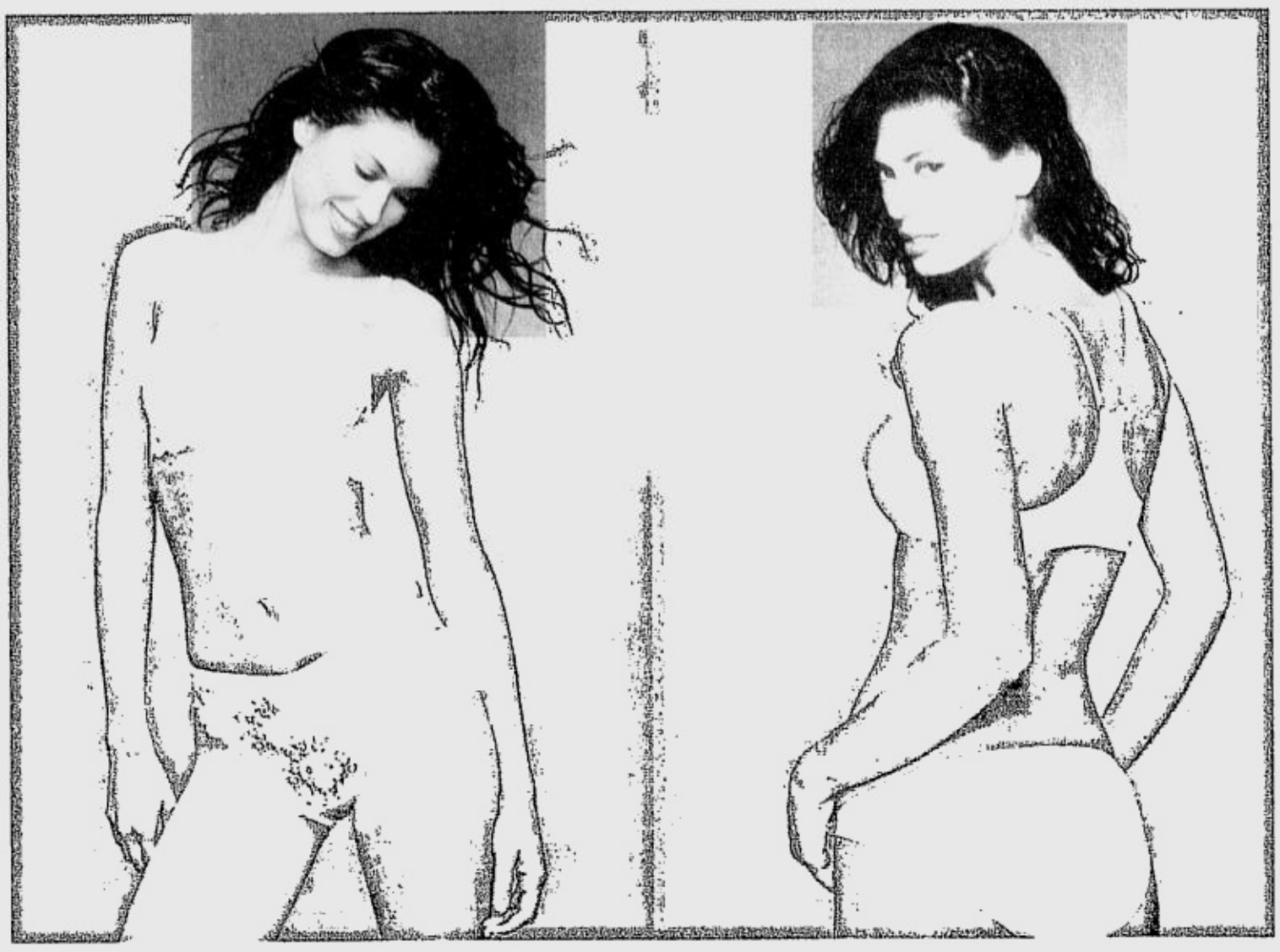
ANIMAL-and-floral-print long silk nightgown (P6,555) from Malizia by La Perla

PINK check tank and panty set with ribbon accents (P1,442) by Sobimilla Milano



GREEN gingham halter bikini top with matching purple floral-printed French-cut bikini (P2,286) and mini sarong wrap (P1,700), all by Zed

LINGERIE Suonos owners Sandy Javier and Karen Montelibano. The store was named after the Jun de Leon-photographed coffee-table book "Suonos," which featured Montelibano and was published by Javier.



Bras for flaunting those shapes

WOMEN can showcase their figures to the max with One Fabulous Fit, Maidenform's newest line of shape-defining bras.

The line is made of extra-soft microfiber material that provides smooth comfort all day. The two-way stretch fabric and foam cups support above, below and across the bust, giving a seamless uplift and discreet opacity.

One Fabulous Fit includes the Maidenform Strapless bra. Providing utmost comfort, it is also guaranteed to stay in place. The bra can be worn as strapless, criss-cross, halter, one strap or demi.

The Maidenform Eyelet Lace Demi is a seamless, smooth, ultra-feminine stretch lace bra.

For the active and sporty, there is the Maidenform T-Back bra. The front close and comfort back allows freedom of movement.

Clear definition and shape are offered by Maidenform Padded Soft Cup, the modern, low-cut plunge neckline bra that's soft and comfortable.

The Maidenform Demi bra gives shape-enhancing support where it is most needed.

Comfort and feminine flair are offered by the brushed back lace of the Maidenform Demi Lace bra.

One Fabulous Fit by Maidenform is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and available in leading department stores nationwide.

Bea Alonzo goes on mall tour

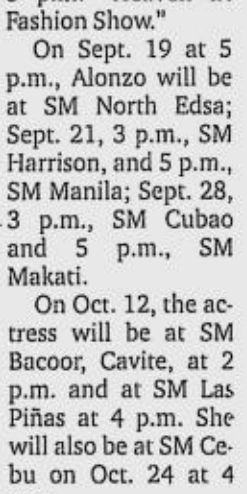
ACTRESS Bea Alonzo, more popularly known as "Katrina" or "Kat" in ABS-CBN's teleseries "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," is the new image model of the Kara Nina cosmetic kit collection.

Alonzo is going on a tour of SM Department Stores to promote Kara Nina cosmetic kits. Tomorrow at 4 p.m., she will be at SM Megamall. She will participate in the 5 p.m. "Heaven IX Fashion Show."

On Sept. 19 at 5 p.m., Alonzo will be at SM North Edsa; Sept. 21, 3 p.m., SM Harrison, and 5 p.m., SM Manila; Sept. 28, 3 p.m., SM Cubao and 5 p.m., SM Makati.

On Oct. 12, the actress will be at SM Bacoor, Cavite, at 2 p.m. and at SM Las Piñas at 4 p.m. She will also be at SM Cebu on Oct. 24 at 4 p.m.

Kara Nina cosmetic kits has an ongoing gift-with-purchase promo in all SM Department Stores nationwide.



BEA Alonzo

SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
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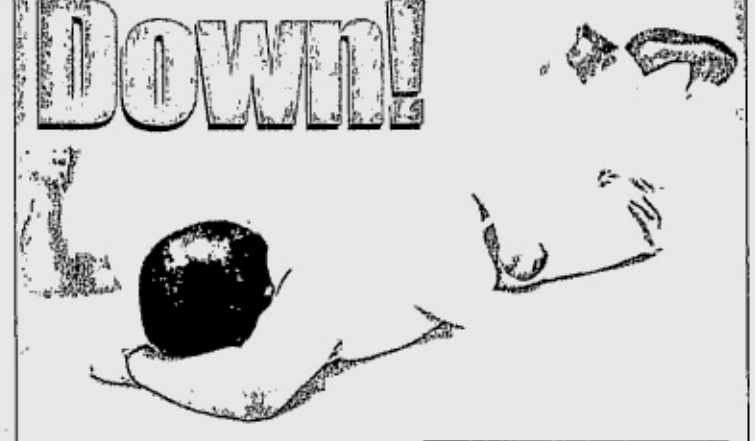
BOOK OUTPRICE SALE
NEWSFLASH
Readers Break Down!



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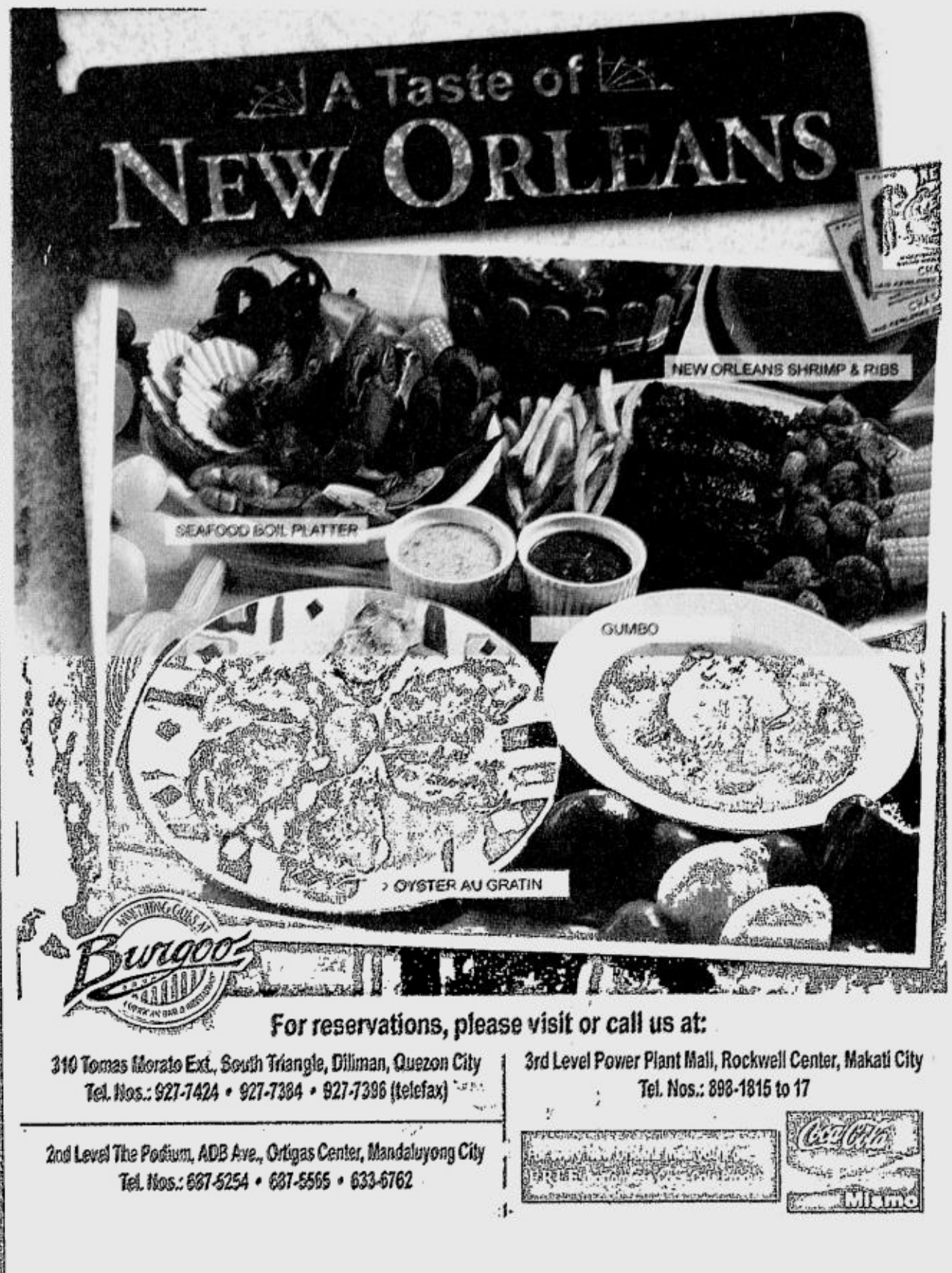


BLACK AND WHITE. He lounges in a white cotton tuxedo shirt with Nehru collar in black satin (P2,500), white cotton pique vest with black embroidery (P3,500) and a pair of black English wool pants (P2,500).

Tailored . . .

CLOTHES:
MEL MEER FOR BERGAMO
MODEL:
CRISTIAN WAALER
VENUE:
GERRY CONTRERAS' MANSION,
FORBES PARK

From page D1

The first Bergamo shop opened in September 1986, in a corner of the now defunct Castle of Quality at the old Greenbelt.

Regina Meer Castillo, Meer's older sister, owned Castle of Quality, which later became the Castle. His exposure to the clothes business came much earlier, when, as a boy, he used to accompany his big sister to scour Divisoria for raw materials. That he eventually became a clotheshorse was inevitable.

"I used to sell *papantalunin* (cut fabrics) while working for SGV," he says. "My stint in New York further honed my taste as it exposed me to the finest fabrics and influences."

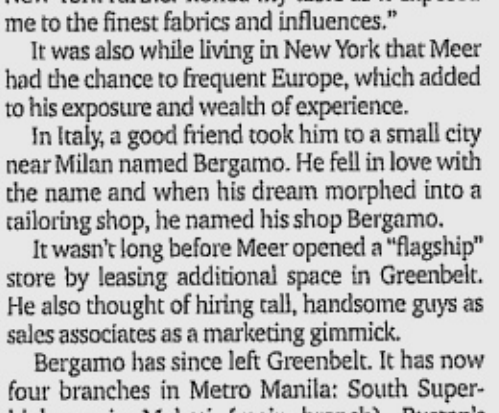
It was also while living in New York that Meer had the chance to frequent Europe, which added to his exposure and wealth of experience.

In Italy, a good friend took him to a small city near Milan named Bergamo. He fell in love with the name and when his dream morphed into a tailoring shop, he named his shop Bergamo.

It wasn't long before Meer opened a "flagship" store by leasing additional space in Greenbelt. He also thought of hiring tall, handsome guys as sales associates as a marketing gimmick.

Bergamo has since left Greenbelt. It has now four branches in Metro Manila: South Superhighway in Makati (main branch), Rustan's Makati, The Peninsula Manila Hotel and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Misura, a lower-end brand, sells RTW clothes in Harrison Plaza.

"There will always be a market for custom-tailored suits and barongs," Meer says. "Even if it means catering to a high-end clientele."



PENSIVE. He goes traditional in a barong Tagalog made of beige Italian linen with classic embroidery (P4,000).

BOY NEXT DOOR. Cristian takes off his light gray, double-breasted suit made of English wool (P12,000 including pants) to reveal a long-sleeved, mustard cotton shirt (P1,650).

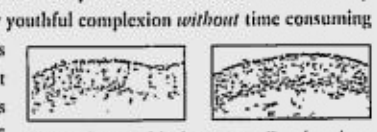
CRISTAUX
by Shu Uemura

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student, mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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From the girly to the gothic

PRACTICE self-control and choose wisely. Fight your addiction to makeup and don't go overboard. Get only key pieces you need to update your look. Resist buying the whole collection!

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Sometimes a certain makeup brand just has your name all over it. That's what happened to me when I attended the launch of Pout cosmetics.

I have always been a girly-girl. If you loved the wardrobe/style of "Romy and Michele" and "Legally Blonde's" Elle Woods, and Kylie Minogue's is your idea of sexy, Pout may be for you. Their packaging alone is very boudoir and the names are oh-so-naughty!

Makeup artist Drift Stoddart, who flew in from London, was a real live Barbie and a kindred spirit with her platinum hair, black petticoat skirt and lacy sweater. Celebrities who use Pout are Kylie (Light My Fire, Ditzy Doris, Bite My Cherry, Pop My Bubble and Cute Girl) and Shania Twain (Striptease, Pretty Girl, Glam Gladys, Lick My Lolly).

Pout's packages are in pink, purple, aqua

FROM/ E4

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SEPTEMBER 12 FRIDAY

THE DATING game: Handsome Mark Jentes with his latest date, pretty-pretty Renee Rogoff

HOT new twosome: Store Specialist's Mike Huang with headturner Cheska Litton

COCO del Gallego and fashionable babe Regine King

MEGA magazine editor and Resto 12 first lady Liza Ilarde Cuenca with Store Specialist's genius hotshot Anton Huang

EYECATCHING sisters Maureen and Shannon Brennan

KENZO followers Marco de Guzman and Minelli Bautista

Perfumed set gets scented–and surprised

VOTED Kenzo couple of the night: international businessman Tony Hotung and gorgeous Wendy Puyat

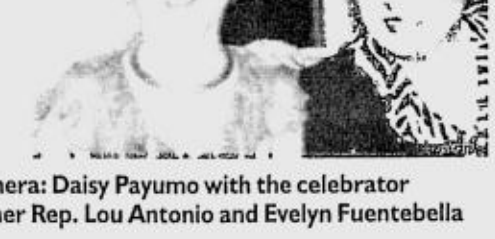
OUT of South Africa: brothers Jason and Ronald

RESTO 12's next guest chef: that's the back of chef par excellence Debbie Enriquez, who will show off her Moroccan style of cooking

BETH Javier with lady of the hour, former Rep. Emily Lopez and former Rep. Villarosa

YOU'RE on candid camera: Daisy Payumo with the celebrator Michelle Antonio, former Rep. Lou Antonio and Evelyn Fuentebella

INDAY del Rosario



NONA Lobregat with Rep. Lorna Silverio and Tessie Daza

MAYOR Grace Singson with Jingle Badelles and Ging Dy

SMOOTH L'Eau Par Kenzo, an old favorite, has now a great, hip look, a new modern minimalism to compliement the enlivening eau that has become known worldwide. So, in what better venue to relaunch the fragrance than at the popular, minimalist Restaurant 12?

The invite said, "Come at 12," and unlike Cinderella who had to rush home, the partying mob rushed in at the stroke of midnight.

White-clad models roamed 12's two floors, spraying the his and hers versions on the hip pack. Kenzo's sexy video played in the background, and party-goers were riveted to the images on screen.

Many of them hoped to win the scents for themselves as Rustan's brilliant marketing gentleman Anton Huang raffled off Pour Homme and Pour Femme bottles every 20 minutes, would you believe?

DJ **Chip de la Calzada** and good-looking DJ **Wendell Garcia** entertained the night owls.

It seems Cosmo-Manille's regular and not so regular party animals were there to smell the cool Kenzo cologne. Heading the night cast was 12's main man **Elbert Cuenca**, **JR Isaac** and Cebu's **Debbie Enriquez**, who will be the fab guest chef on Sept. 22-29, dishing out her excellent Moroccan menus.

Rhett Eala, 12 designer, was there. So were **Rosanna Escudero**, **Kara Tolentino**, handsome **Mark Jentes**, **Renee Rogoff**, **Catrice Manapat**, **Francis Rodriguez**, gorgeous **Anna Palabyab**, beautiful couple **Mavis** and **Jim Fuentebella**, nice couple **Angela** and **Andy Gray**, **Great Ancheta**, **Raymond Rufino**, **Joel Ong** and stage star **Bart Guingona**, *palanggas*.

In between the raffling of Kenzo cologne, I chatted with fun businessman J.A. He told me, "Whenever you use the word 'darling' in your write up, I can't help but remember my wife."

"Why?" I asked.

"Well, she only calls me darling twice a year. Before her birthday and before Christmas."

Oops. Remind me to stop using dahling, okay? Let's stick to *palangga*.

At 3 a.m., with the party still peaking, gorgeous beauty **Wendy Puyat** and her husband, international businessman **Tony Hotung**, one of our town's most elegant couples, were chosen as "Kenzo's Lady and Man of the Night." Like L'Eau Par Kenzo Pour Femme and Pour Homme, they certainly were a beautiful pair. Rustan's is the only one that carries Kenzo, *palanggas*. That's how exclusive Kenzo is.

Sweet surprise

The gang of three women of substance and influence—Rep. **Cynthia Villar**, **Emily Lopez** and **Michelle Antonio**—was treated to a surprise birthday party by their close pals at the exclusive presidential suite of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The place was groaning with roses, lilies and tons of other fresh flowers. The menu was simply gourmet so the women had to relax their calorie watch. The aperitif was delightfully sinful: pan-fried foie gras with mesclun green mixed with balsamic reduction. Soup was lobster Bisque with rich brandy cream. And the main course was a yummy beef tenderloin laced with thyme and sea bass fillet with mango and pineapple relish topped with sweet potato purce. The dessert sent the dinner bunch going back for seconds and even a third serving of the superb, to-die-for Baked Alaska, which only the Makati Shangri-La could concoct.

After the Baked Alaska disappeared upon what seemed like an attack by piranhas, the society gals burst into songs. The Congressional Ladies sang the distinctive tunes of the different regions.

The very select groupie of 23 rocked and swung to the music of Velvet Mood. Enjoying the gals' nightout were **Judy Araneta-Roxas**, **Gina Vera Perez de Venecia**, **Baby Magsaysay**, **Grace Singson**, **Zeny Tanada**, **Girlie Villarosa**, **Tessie Daza**, **Inday del Rosario**, **Menchu Romero** and tall, elegant **Yaying Dragon**.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

Other well-wishers were **Antonio Lou**, **Jingle Badelles**, **Cara Cosalun**, **Ging Dy**, **Evelyn Fuentebella**, **Nona Lobregat**, **Sonia Lorenzo**, **Daisy Payumo**, **Lorna Silverio**, **Jeannie Sandoval** and **Zeny Yap**.

A snap raffle took place with **Challie Valencia** happily winning. Winning what? I never did find out, *palanggas*.

The early bird prize went to **Beth Javier**, who got special gifts.

The gals started to crash out at 12-ish. They jumped into their expensive wheels, but not before they all received a Swarovski crystal necklace, a sparkling remembrance to the joint birthday of these three wise women, who definitely know how to handle power.

Spotting them

Last weekend was a madhouse. Imagine two grand hotels competing with one another, both throwing a fab huge bash all on the same day.

The magnificent Shangri-La Makati unveiled its new lobby lounge. The elegant Mandarin Oriental opened formally its beautifully renovated coffee shop, Paseo, where one could choose from five long buffet stations, different types of food, and eat till the tummy cried out, "Enough! Enough!"

At Nuvo's al-fresco tables, Bukidnon Gov. **Jose Zubiri** was with his pals, Rep. **Tony Boy Floirendo**, Cmdr. **Ben Lista** and shipping magnate **Hermie Esguerra**, discussing politics and watching the parade of beautiful faces.

Asian Spirit hotshot **Noel Oñate** was with his attractive wife **Marrine** on a rare night out with their pals.

At our table we had **Raul Manzano**, **Pepper Teehankee**, Elbert Cuenca, Middle Eastern gourmet princess **Sigalit Djemal** with her husband **Jinai D.** and **Dudo Vaca** going solo since his wife, gorgeous **Vivianne Tan**, was in Singapore wrapping up her affairs before moving to Manille for good.

We also had international businessman **Jacques Dupasquier** and super-nice couple **Christophe** and **Lala Lejeune**.

And that one-of-a-kind traffic-stopper, **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**, celebrated her birthday with a one-of-a-kind bash at the Polo Club, after the surprise midnight get-together given by **Tim Yap** at Restaurant 12 the day before.

Tessa's theme was, "The Amazing Race," which had today's hip-movers and shakers literally gasping and shaking from exhaustion from the game (the False Eyelashes team came out first place).

Later, a fun Hawaiian Luau was held by the swimming pool.

And, who is this high-profile married businessman who usually meets his paramour, a gorgeous model, in different venues around Glorietta 2? This he does on his nights out—without his wife, of course. Oops.

SOME of the gang: (standing) Judy Roxas, Tessie Daza, Yaying Dragon and Mayor Sonia Lorenzo; (seated) Baby Magsaysay, birthday lady Rep. Cynthia Villar and Gina de Venecia

FRENCH connection: Jean-Baptet Vautrot with Julien Cleret and his lady love Jill Villegas

GANG of 3: Robbie Francisco with Dondi Verano and Raul Manzano

SO, what's next? Lovely Kathy Eckstein with businessman Henry Yutuc

THE BED connection: Great Ancheta, Edward Ahorro and Robby Francisco of Arrakis

PARTY hoppers Catrice Manapat, Ricky Delgado and Tim Yap

BILL Dy with Mid Reyes, Ronnie Olalid and birthday gal of the night Grache Cecilio

KENZO'S fresh belles of the ball : Twinkle Samson, Marielle Santos, Preview's fashionable Isha Andaya, Zoom Figueras and Angel Antonio

How to take care of your skin without skinning your wallet

I KNOW that very rich people can afford to buy expensive products to have beautiful skin. I am a simple housewife. Please give me suggestions on how to maintain beautiful skin without spending too much.

It's vital to remember that what goes on inside your body will ultimately reflect on the outside. You can, therefore, achieve near-flawless skin by treating your body right. And although "expensive" beauty products do have their benefits, more often than not, beautiful skin is the result of a healthy lifestyle and a consistent and effective skincare regimen.

Here are some practical tips:

• **Drink lots of water.** Did you ever notice that most supermodels and Hollywood actresses tote bottles of mineral water wherever they go? That's because they know that by drinking around eight glasses of water a day, you can cleanse your system and hydrate your skin. So, take your cue from them and start guzzling down your fair share of *agua*. Fruit juices and herbal teas count, too, while caffeinated drinks don't.

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

• **Eat balanced meals.** A healthy diet will help you achieve blemish-free skin. Take everything in moderation to ensure that your body gets all the nutrients it needs. Do try to eat more of fruits and vegetables. If you are prone to breakouts, it's best to avoid oily and fried food, alcohol, caffeine, spices and foods that contain iodine like shellfish, as these may trigger oil and cause more breakouts.

• **Get enough sleep.** Around eight hours should do the trick. You'll look so much better minus the dark circles and eye bags, so make sure you get enough shut-eye.

• **Exercise regularly.** Aside from keeping your body trim and toned, exercise helps rid your system of toxins. It stimulates perspiration and the oil-secreting action of the skin which helps retain moisture and health in our skin, hair and even nails.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Get a healthy glow by sweating it out and doing some form of aerobic exercise at least three times a week for around 20 to 30 minutes per session.

• **Protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays.** The sun is perhaps your skin's number one enemy, so make sure you protect yourself from its harmful rays. Prolonged, unprotected exposure to it will not only cause premature lines, freckles and sun spots, but might even lead to skin cancer.

Wear sun block with a sun protection factor (spf) of at least 15 whenever you go outdoors, not just when you're on the beach, by the pool or engaging in some outdoor activity. The earlier you get into this routine, the better. How well you protect your skin during your younger years will definitely have a bearing on its appearance and health later on.

• **Stop smoking.** Smoking can speed up the aging process a thousandfold. Your lips will turn gray, you'll get wrinkles around your mouth and your skin will turn ashy. Worse, smoking can actually kill you. So, if you smoke, quit now. It's never too late.

• **Reduce stress.** Relax and take things in stride. You'll look younger and more beautiful when you feel good inside.

• **Establish a skincare regimen.** You must consistently follow a skincare program in order to achieve and maintain beautiful skin. It need not be a complicated procedure. In fact, the simpler it is, the more convenient for you.

Here is a simple routine that you can easily follow:

Cleanse. It is better to use a soap-free cleanser like Cetaphil, as this is non-drying and gentler on the skin. In the mornings, it is enough to simply rinse your face with water, but at night, make sure you use a cleanser or scrub to remove impurities.

Keep in mind that over-washing is not beneficial to your skin. It can send your oil glands into overdrive, therefore causing more breakouts. Alternately, it can also result in dehydration, increased sensitivity, redness and dermatitis, as over-cleansing can strip your skin of essential lipids that help retain moisture.

Tone. This can be an optional step in your daily routine. Use a toner only if you have oily skin or you feel that the cleanser did not clean your face well enough. Choose one that is alcohol-free to avoid stripping your skin of moisture.

Exfoliate. Slough off dead skin cells and make your skin glow by exfoliating at least once a week. Here is a homemade exfoliant you might want to try:

Oatmeal scrub (for the face)

1 tbsp ground oatmeal (not the instant kind)

1 tsp lemon juice

2 tsps yogurt

Combine the ingredients in a small bowl. Splash your face with warm water, then use your fingers to work the oatmeal scrub all over your face. Use a gentle, circular motion and never apply force or tug at your skin. Afterward, rinse your face with warm water.

To be on the safe side, do a skin test before using the oatmeal scrub on your face. Apply a small amount of the recipe (about one inch square) on your forearm, cover with an adhesive strip and leave for 24 hours. If your skin itches, burns or turns red, you are allergic to an ingredient in the mixture and should not use it. Wash the scrub off with soap and water.

Nourish. This is one of the most essential steps in caring for your skin. It may spell the difference between aging gracefully and looking old, dull and tired. To hydrate your skin, moisturize with facial and body lotions.

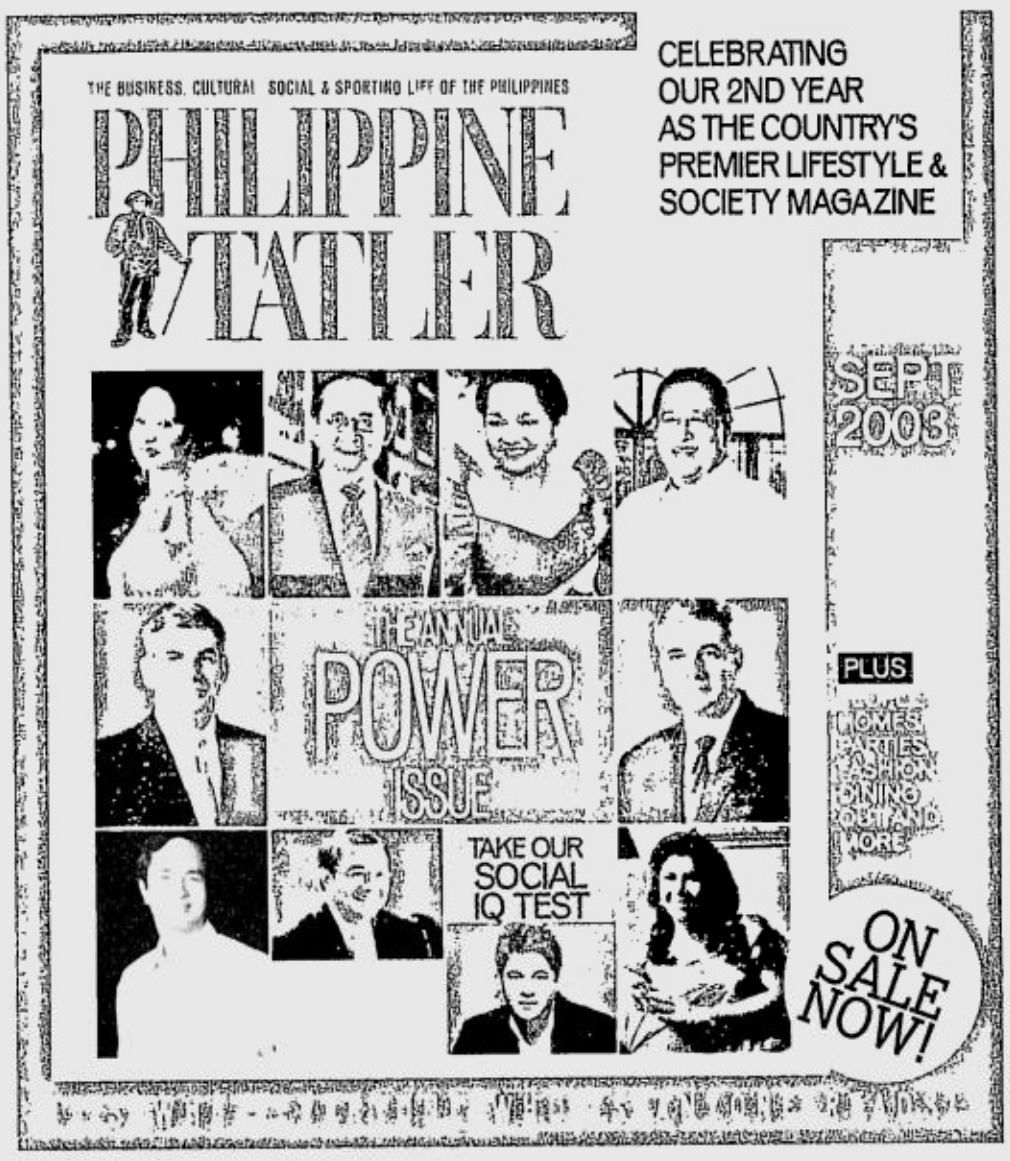
Choose a moisturizer according to your skin type. For example, oil-free varieties are perfect for oily, blemish-prone skin while heavy creams are better for dry skin.

Bear in mind that skincare need not be expensive. Normally, I would also recommend monthly professional facials but for now, let's work within your budget and keep your skincare regimen to a minimum. More than anything else, it should be consistent.

It will also help to find inexpensive products that suit your skin type. A trip to the grocery to check out affordable products might just help. Ask friends for recommendations, or, if you have the time and the resources, consult with a dermatologist for advice on the best skincare routine and products for you.

Sources: "The Body Book, Recipes for Natural Body Care" by Anne Akers Johnson; "Bobbi Brown Beauty Evolution, A Guide to a Lifetime of Beauty" by Bobbi Brown with Sally Wadyka

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



From the girly to the gothic

From page E1

blue (my ball-pen colors) with lace and fish-net designs.

My favorites include the Flush Blush (P1,125). It consists of four easy-to-blend creamy stick blushes that make your cheeks look blushy.

Raunchy Red gives one rosy cheeks.

Wild Berries is dusty pink, and it's a great all-in-one for lips, eyes and cheeks.

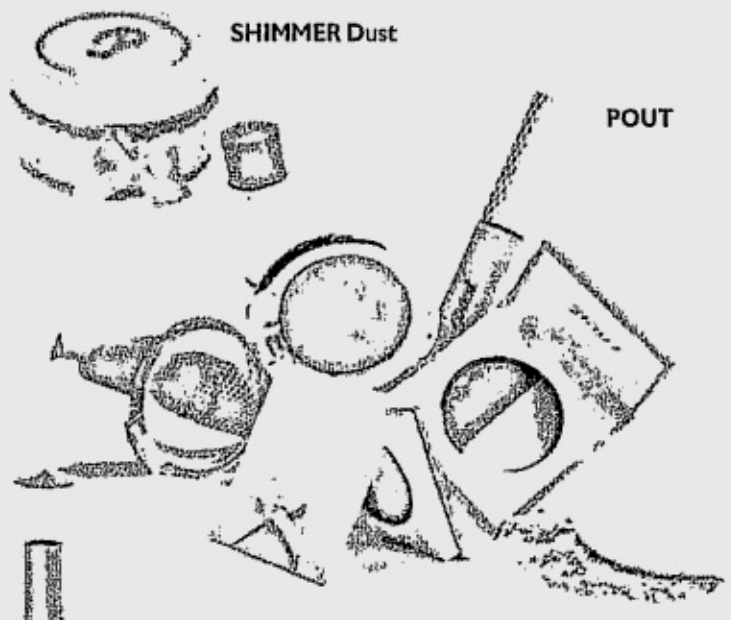
I also like the All-lip products (P750). Cute Girl and Naughty Girl lipsticks smell and taste like caramel. Burst My Berries, Lick My Lolly and Bite My Cherry lip glosses make your lips look glossy.

The creamy, pigment-rich lipsticks in sexy nude shades such as No Knickers (soft beige) and Striptease (nude pink) make thin lips look fuller.

Goth lovers may go for Carpet Burn, which is in deep black, purple, or red.

I also like Lipliners (P600), which are named after bra sizes. My favorite shade is the same as Drew Barrymore's—32F—which is mulberry red.

I also enjoy Shimmer Dust, shimmery powders in gold, pink and champagne with garter-belt accent.



SHIMMER Dust

POUT

FLUSH Blush

POUT

CRISTAUX by Shu Uemura

Gothic sexy

I like the look of Angelina Jolie, the epitome of Goth. I also love Lara Flynn Boyle's look as Serleena in "Men in Black 2," with her porcelain skin and deep red lips. Morticia Adams and Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, I always find fascinating!

They are the perfect models for Shu Uemura's fall/winter 2003-2004 look Cristaux. The line has the Gothic theme of pale skin, defined eyes and dark lips.

The eye shimmer is P1,100. It consists of four cream shadows in a tube that is easily blended with fingers. Icy Veil is snowflake white, Fog Rain grayish purple, Frozen Dew green and gold, and Frosted Branch brown like branches sprinkled with snow.

The Pressed Eye shadow is P1,150. The Glow-On Blush is P1,525.

The Rouge 4 lipsticks (P1,150) have one representative per color family: Passion 16 (warm red), Emotion 279 (raisin), Inspiration 947 (cool nude pink) and Strength 776 (bronze brown with shimmer).

Nail Enamel (P850) has Arctic Lights (sheer platinum), Dawn (sheer iridescent rose) and Gloaming (sheer iridescent purple).

Rouge 4 Lipstick Strength 795E is black-red with a copper shimmer. It is my Goth lip recommendation although it is not part of the collection.

Pout is exclusively available at Beauty Bar and Shu Uemura in Rustan's.

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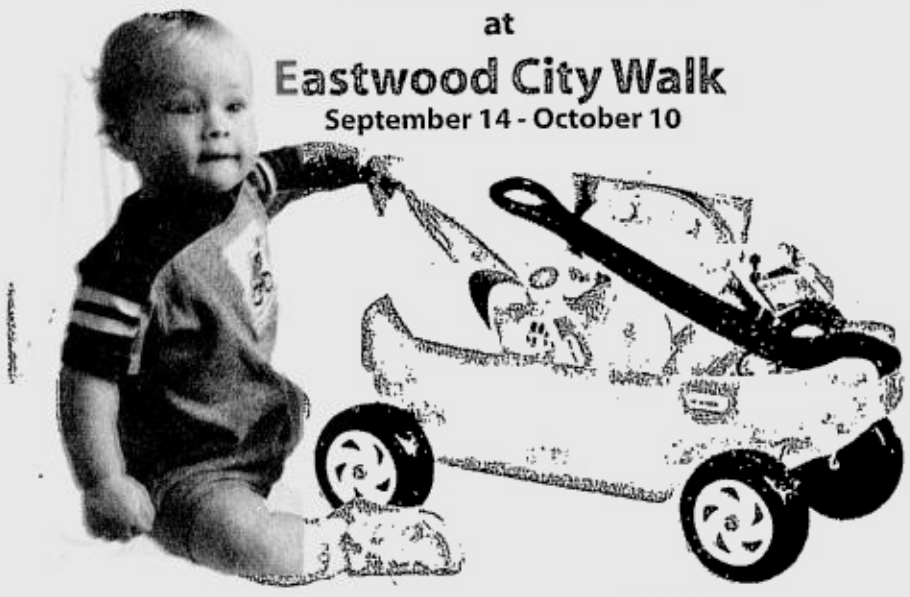

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HURRY! Offer good only from **September 14 to October 10.** Watch out for the **Grand Raffle Draw** on **Oct. 12.**

See posters and fliers for details.

PROGRAM
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5 &12

Activity		Shows - 5pm onwards	
12 noon	Registration Coloring Sessions Ceramic Painting	Ventriloquist & Puppet Show	Sept. 14
		Clown Magician & Unicyclist Juggler	Sept. 21
2 pm	Face Painting and Drawing Workshop by Pentel	Exotic Bird & Monkey Show	Sept. 28
		Clown Magician & Kids Salon	Oct. 5
4 pm	Fun Games	Happy Hats Show The Amazing Bubble Show	Oct. 12
5 pm	Mascot Perfomance		

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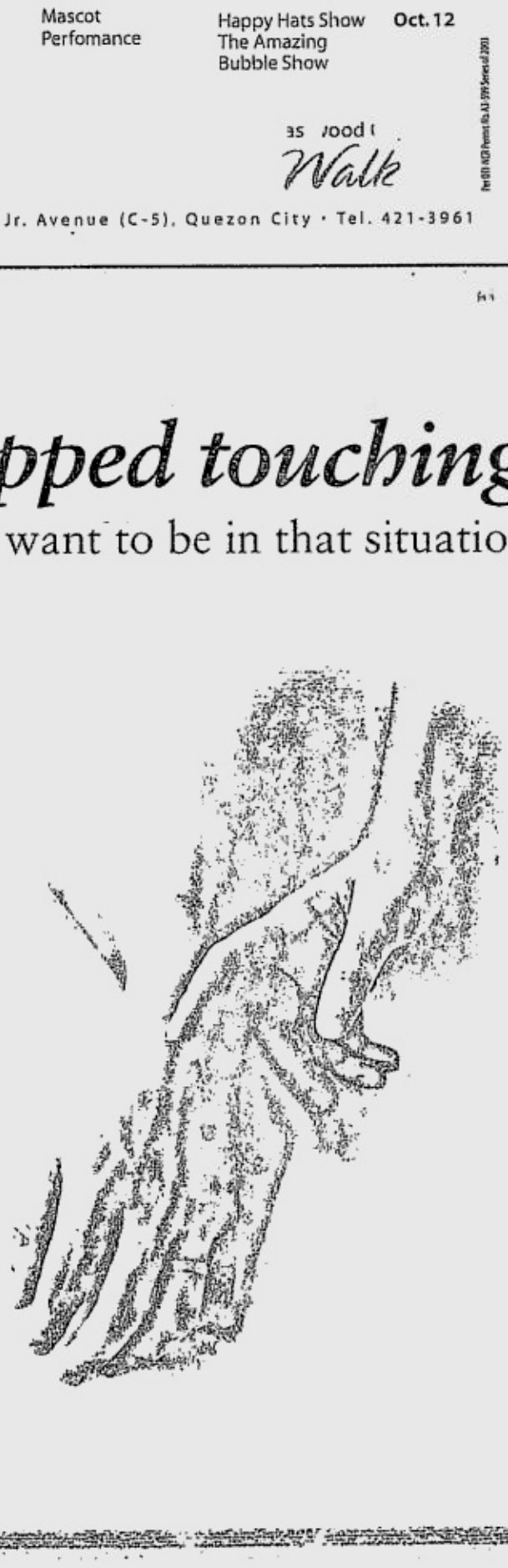
"I stopped touching her."

I didn't want to be in that situation again.



IT'S NOT that I didn't want to make *love*... I just could *not*... and I avoided showing affection, fearing things might lead *somewhere*... UNTIL I learned I had a medical condition called ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. It affects 87 million men in Asia, but it's very treatable. My doctor prescribed a treatment for me, and since then, *romance is back in our marriage.*

KNOW MORE about it

Now there's a new treatment for ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION. If you think this can help you or your spouse, don't hesitate to consult a doctor. To know more about ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION and this new treatment, you can call the CIALIS HELPLINE at 1-800-1-888-2436, send an e-mail to cialishelpline@lilly.com, or visit www.cialis.com.ph.

When men avoid Sex

ANSWERS THAT MATTER

Manuel Yubico, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Yubico is a fellow of the Philippine Urologic Association and a member of the Philippine Society of Oncologists. He specializes in general and urological oncology at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and is a member of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center Prostate Brachythenapy Unit. He is also an assistant professor at the De La Salle University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

AS A UROLOGIST, I've recently been asked questions about erectile dysfunction or ED, a condition that is not usually openly discussed. Here are some of the most common questions I've received.

What is erectile dysfunction (ED)?

Erectile Dysfunction, or ED, is defined as the constant inability of a man to attain or maintain an erection sufficient for sexual performance. It used to be called "impotence", though the more correct term is ED. Now, if you've been hearing a lot about ED, that's because a lot of men suffer from it. In 1995, about 152 million men worldwide suffered from it and this number is expected to rise to 325 million in 2025. In Asia, the Philippines included, ED affects close to 87 million men. Of those afflicted, only 10% actually seek treatment, because most men are embarrassed to discuss it with their physicians. Likewise, some doctors fail to ask their patients about it because it is a very personal and private matter to them.

What causes ED?

There are 2 main causes attributed to the disease: organic and psychogenic. In some instances, it may be a combination of both. The psychogenic causes of ED include depression, performance anxiety and emotional distress. For a time, these were thought to be the most common causes of ED but research shows that they are the cause in less than 30% of the cases. On the other hand, the organic causes account for 70% - 90% of ED cases. They include vascular diseases (like hypertension), previous pelvic surgery or injuries, use of medications, and diabetes mellitus. Smoking and excessive alcohol intake also cause ED. However, of all the organic causes of ED, diabetes mellitus is the one most significantly associated with ED.

In most cases, ED is an early symptom of a more serious underlying medical condition. So if you suspect you have ED, consult your physician at once.

I think I have ED. Whom do I go to, and what medications should I take?

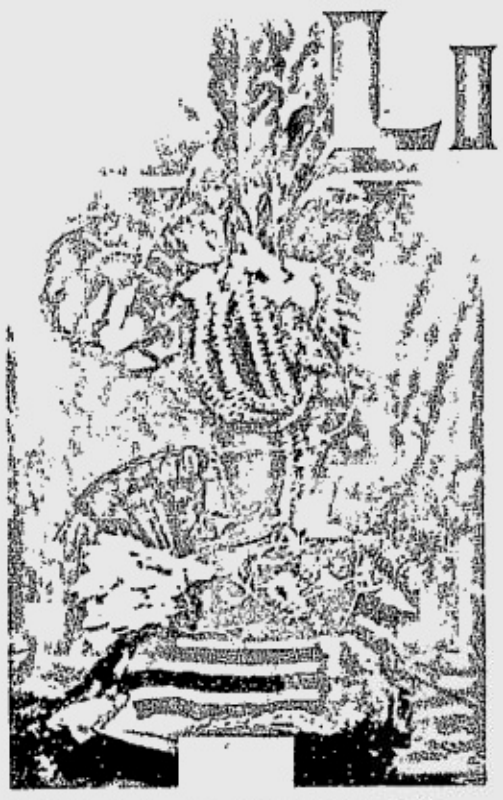
ED is now an easily treatable disease. You can approach just about any doctor about it. Urologists are doctors who specialize in treating male sexual dysfunction but you can also consult your family physician, cardiologists, endocrinologists, and internists as well. It is recognized that ED may be a sign of a bigger problem, and doctors now understand that closer investigation is needed. As for the medications you should take, recent discoveries have led to the development of oral medications that allow men to achieve normal erections. In fact, a sense of normalcy can be achieved because there is now a drug that exerts its effects even when a person dines or consumes alcohol. It even allows couples to be more intimate because its effects last for 24 to 36 hours. Consult your doctor about the treatment option that best suits you and your needs.

I'm in my 50's. Is it normal for couples to get less intimate as they get older?

It may sound surprising to many, but the answer is no, it's not normal. In fact, couples should be just as, if not more, intimate as they grow older. Physical intimacy is a very important component in keeping a relationship strong. The fact that their partner still finds them attractive gives both parties security and peace of mind. This just goes to show that ED affects not only the man, it affects the woman, too.

For more questions about erectile dysfunction and the treatment options available, call the Cialis Helpline at 1-800-1-888-2436 or send an e-mail to cialishelpline@lilly.com. All information you provide will remain confidential.

LIFESTYLE



FLORAL design of Australia's Richard Go

A summit of harmony and beauty

By Tita V. Giron

IT was a breath-taking demonstration of skills and creativity as floral designers and masters of different nationalities interpreted their impressions of the "wonders of the Philippines" through flower arrangements.

The occasion was a floral spectacle called "A Day With Experts," the main event of the 20th annual summit of the World Flower Council held last week at Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Every year, council members from different chapters in 27 countries meet together to socialize, discuss business trends and demonstrate skills in the floral arts. Their main objective, of course, is to promote the business of flowers worldwide. About 150 foreigners and 48 Filipinos attended the Manila summit.

Setting the tone for the four-day summit was a welcome dinner held at Father Blanco's Garden in Intramuros the evening before the formal opening. Some foreign delegates described the dinner as an "affair-to-remember."

They were charmed by parasols on every table and Bulacan sweets wrapped in lacy cut-out paper. Not surprising since Rachy Cuna, who has been christened the country's floral architect, hosted the welcome dinner extravaganza.

The closing dinner of the summit was equally memorable with a fashion show using fresh flowers as accessories.

Flower design session

The "Day with Experts" was a special treat to local florists, who got a chance to see the latest trends and techniques in flower arranging from design masters from other countries. The masters interpreted the theme "Discover the Won

A SUMMIT/ F4

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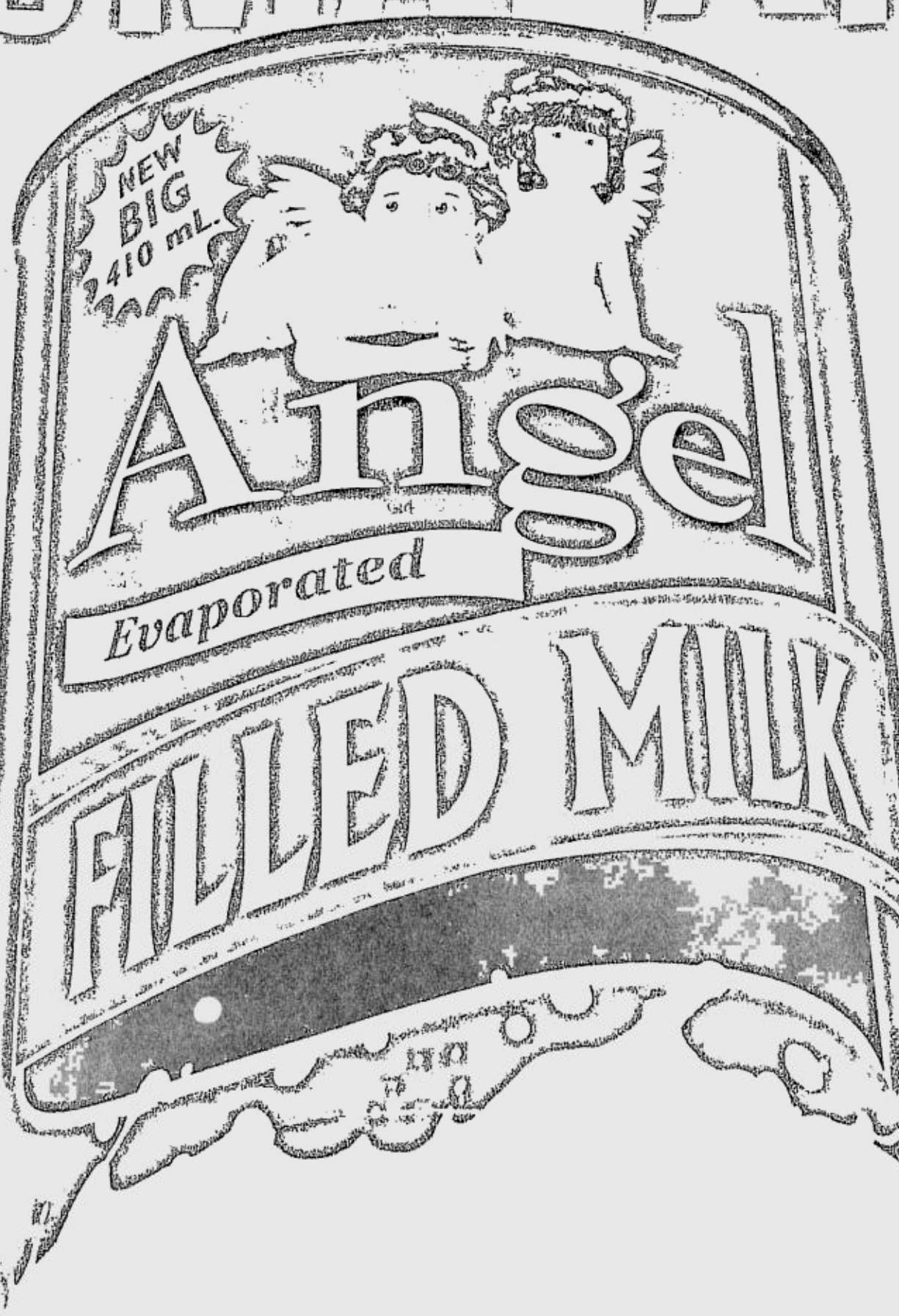

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Now there's (black) gold in garbage

OIL from garbage? Seems too good to be true, but if that indeed were the case, it would mean everyone could attain zero waste.

Last May, we received the optimistic news from the Concerned Citizens against Pollution (Cocap) that coco diesel oil was found to be a good alternative to fuel oil. It was optimistic because the product would rely on a primary resource—the coconut—that grows aplenty in these shores. It seems the search for other oil sources continues.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

The report on the extraction of oil from garbage coincidentally appeared the same month as the other one in Discover magazine. The technology involved is called thermal depolymerization process or TDP. It has already been demonstrated in Philadelphia, United States, and industrial machines using the oil have been installed in Missouri, site of the processing plant.

Improving on an idea

Paul Baskis, a microbiologist from Illinois who developed the technology, says he simply improved on the ideas of earlier inventors, reversing some processes to come up with an apparatus that can generate high-quality oil, clean-burning gas and purified minerals that can be used as fuel, fertilizer or specialty chemicals for manufacturing.

As the first trials were done in a turkey processing plant, the main waste items used were turkey feathers, bones, skin, blood, fat and guts. When put in a grinder they turned into a gray-brown slurry that then flowed into a series of tanks and pipes, coming out a little later as a honey-colored fluid.

Based on the results of the trials, the people involved are now talking about using not only turkey waste but also tires, plastic bottles, dredged muck, municipal garbage, oil refinery residues, biological weapons like anthrax spores, infectious medical waste, sewage including human excrement and just about everything man discards. These, they claim, can turn into "glorious oil."

The potential of TDP is unbelievable, for "you're not only cleaning up waste, you're talking about distributed generation of oil all over the world."

The process parallels what planet Earth "mastered" long ago—turning the long chains of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon-bearing molecules (known as polymers) from decomposed plants and animals into short-chain hydrocarbons. The difference is that while it took Earth millions of years to accomplish the transformation, TDP can convert waste in a matter of days.

It may seem too good to be true, yes, but some investors have already shown interest, and Baskis and his staff are straightening out any possible kinks. Just imagine, with TDP, we don't have to worry about the rising cost of car fuel or where to throw those flashlight batteries, ball pens and other non-biodegradable wastes.

Resources from toilets

The search for ways to reuse waste seems to be spreading. One area being looked into is how to make use of water from toilets. The technology is called "low-cost ecological sanitation" or ecosan. The Agence France-Presse, reporting on the Third World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Japan, in March, said primitive toilet systems like pit latrines tended to pollute aquifers, in effect turning nature "into the world's biggest bathroom."

Ecosan hopes to change this by keeping toilets dry, separating urine from feces and turning them both into renewable, reusable resources. Paul Calvert, director of the non-government organization Eco-Solutions and who works in India installing urine diversion toilets, calls the process "turning s--t into gold."

The toilets could be a simple slab of concrete on the ground covering a meter-deep (yard) pit, or as ornate as a "porcelain throne." Both types have two vaults. One is fed regularly with ordinary dirt, whose oxygen content works against the pathogens and parasites that breed in waste and cause diseases.

The toilets have to be kept dry because pathogens or disease-causing organisms don't thrive in a dry environment. After a year, the vaults can be emptied, and the result is compost that can be used as agricultural fertilizer, which is cheaper and more effective than the commercial counterparts.

The role of the liquid waste is even more important. When kept uncontaminated by fecal matter, it becomes sterile and, yes, drinkable. In the light of dwindling water sources the world over, this is important indeed. Drinking aside, the uncontaminated water can already be used for various purposes, like watering plants and crops. At present, it is already proving to be a boon in rural communities in India, Africa and China. In these countries, some people have built ecosan structures near their houses to make the recycled water accessible for different purposes.

The technologies are simpler and less expensive to apply, so perhaps our authorities can look into them for our needs.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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DEL MONTE PINEA

Ingredients:

1/2 kg.	beef sirloin, tapa style	*Marinade:*	
1 pc.	large onion, sliced into rings	1/2 head	garlic
3 tbsps.	soy sauce	2 tbsps.	soy sa
1 tbsp.	calamansi juice	1 tbsp.	calam
1 can	DEL MONTE Fresh Cut Pineapple Tidbits (439 g.), drained (reserve syrup)	1/8 tsp.	pepp pinea
1/2 cup	cooking oil		

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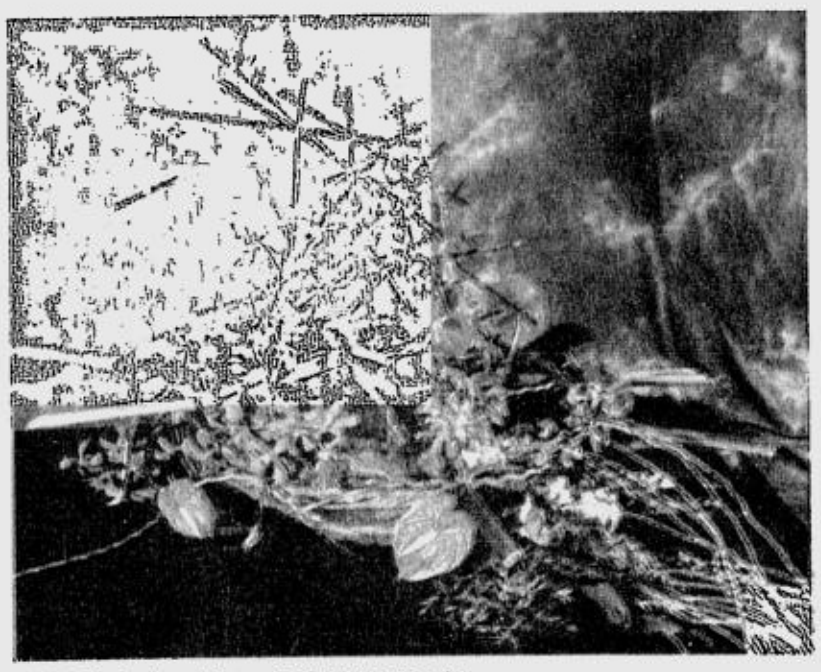
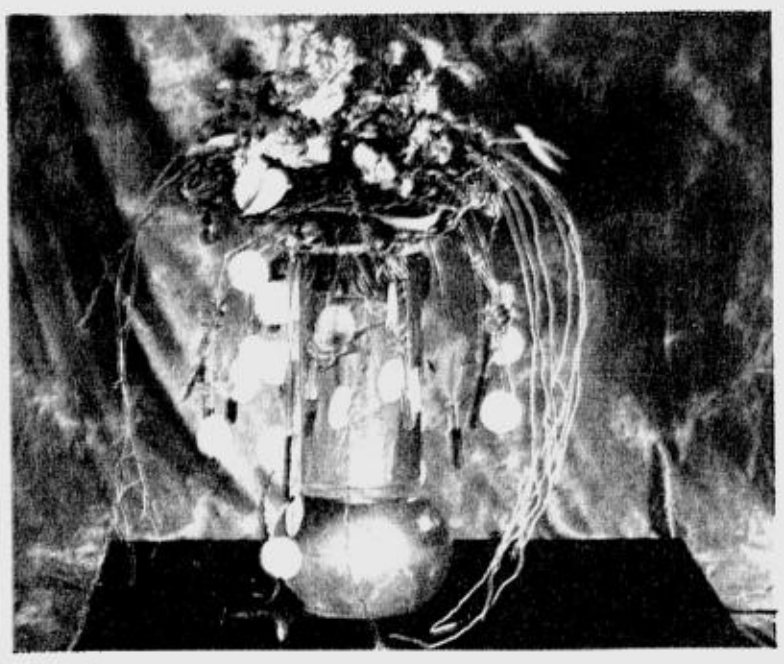


FLORAL design of Canada's Patricia Patrick



FLORAL design of Thailand's Phubast Chesdmethee

FLORAL design of Singapore's Bernard Low

A summit of harmony and beauty

From page F1

ders of the Philippines."

Among the design masters were Richard Go of Australia, Malcolm Angus of New Zealand, Lim Poh Bee of Malaysia, Anson Low of Singapore, Phubast Chesdmethee of Thailand, Els Tiwar of Indonesia, Ilze Daugale and Ilze Zagata of Latvia, Vlad Kulleshov of Russia, Bob Newton of Canada, Sue Prewitt of the United States and Cuna.

Australia's Go actually grew up in Baguio City and studied at St. Louis University and the University of the Philippines in Baguio. He migrated 14 years ago and is now teaching floristry in Sydney.

The summit proved to the foreign guests that there's a vigorous flower industry in the Philippines. Thousands of fresh flowers, foliage and accessories were supplied to the different venues of the summit by King Louis Flowers and Plants, Inc., Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants, Jasam Floral Sundries and Agrikultura Pilipina, Inc.

King Louis of Baguio supplied most of the liliums, gerberas, callas and cool-growing flowers. Puentespina of Davao flew in orchids, grass flowers and an assortment of foliage. Agrikultura of Batangas supplied the anthuriums and foliage while Jasam provided the imported vases and accessories.

Dazzling display

Among the masters, the ones who left favorable impressions with the audience were:

Go, obviously familiar with the Mountain Province, made an ingenious arrangement that clearly portrayed the rice terraces, mountains, Baguio as flower capital of the Philippines and bountiful harvests. His materials were Renaissance leaves, pink bromeliads, white cattleya orchids and anthurium. On one side of the arrangement was a pair of wedding rings, obviously to interpret the message that Baguio was also a honeymoon capital.

WFC officials Efren Chatto (standing, left), Dean White (standing, fifth from left), Herman Meinders (standing, ninth from left), Phubast Chesdmethee (second from left. front row) with the Philippines' floral design architect Rachy Cuna (standing, second from left) and the world's floral design masters

India's Ghosit made an interesting arrangement with the mystical theme of God, man and earth. She used a handmade flute to represent Lord Krishna's music. Handmade glass receptacles, which she attached to the flute, represented humans who, according to her, were controlled by God. Filled with water, each handmade glass held a white, delicate orchid. Flowers and leaves were supposed to symbolize earth in all its abundance. At the center was a tripod bamboo that connected and balanced the flute, glasses, foliage and flowers.

Zagata of Latvia depicted the sun in a medley of colors. Yellow and orange orchids were grouped in a circle with yellow-green grass radiating from the center like the rays.

A bouquet on a clear vase with blue water was the arrangement made by Chesdmethee of Thailand. He explained that his impression of the Philippines "was a group of scenic tropical islands (represented by the bouquet) with a beautiful underwater world (clear vase filled with blue water)." To simulate movement and portray swimming fishes, he tied *capiz* shells to flexible stems in the vase. His materials were curcuma, orchids, anthurium, berries, several varieties of foliage, orchid roots and artificial accessories.

Cuna presented a towering flower arrangement using dancing ladies, flexible wan ds and tubes. The futuristic design obviously meant to impart the message that the Philippines kept abreast of trends.

World Flower Council

WFC was organized in Gifu, Japan in 1983 but now has its headquarters in Oklahoma, USA. It has chapters in 27 countries including Japan, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, St. Kitts-Nevis, Italy, South Africa, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, etc.

The Manila chapter called WFC Philippines, Inc. has 48 members. Current officers are Efren Chatto, president; Pearl Banaag, vice-president; Marilou Lim, secretary; Belen Bactad, treasurer; and Maribel Cotoco, auditor.

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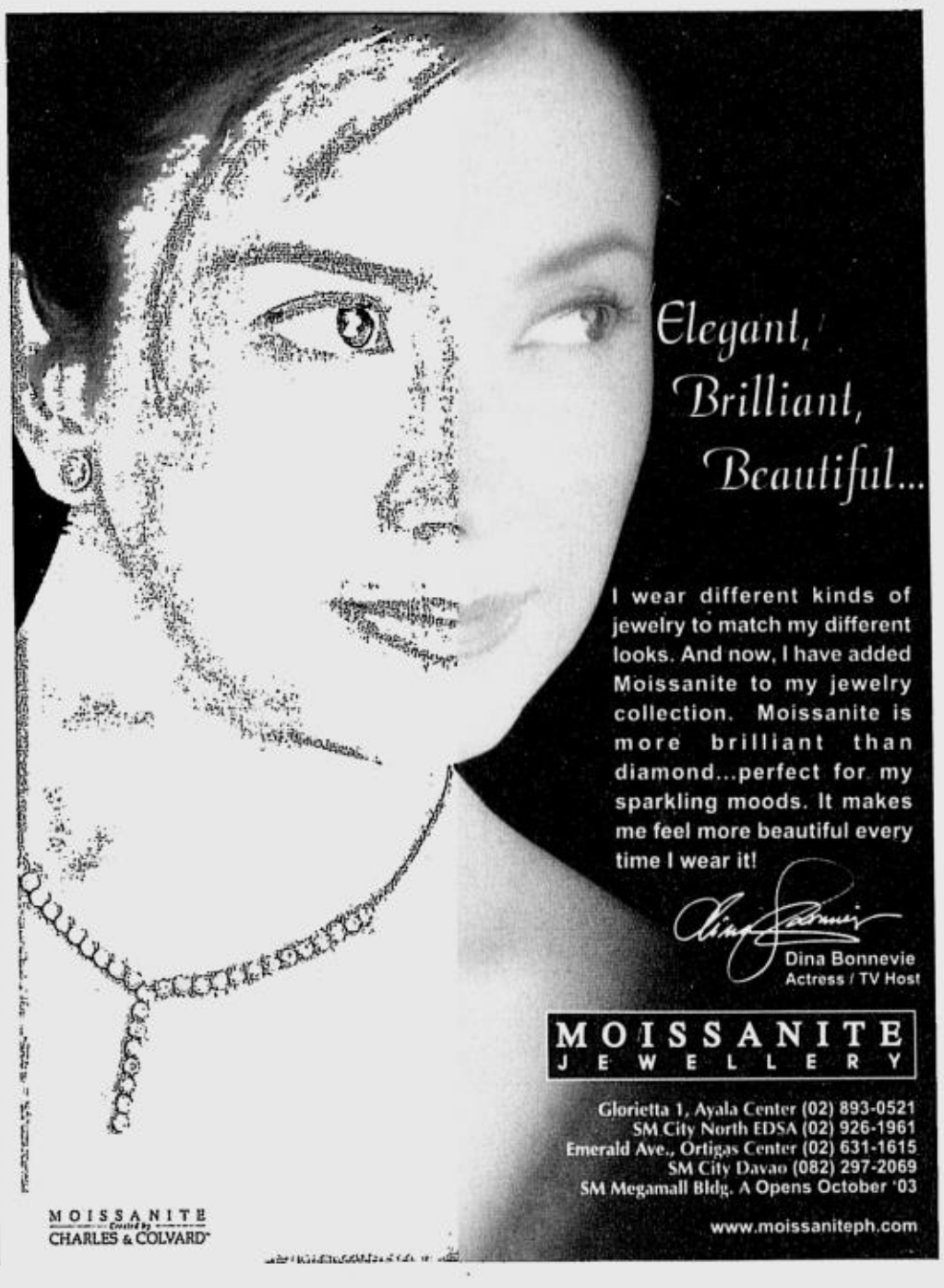
Inquirer Lifestyle

The angel of working fashion

LACE halter dress worn over a lightweight strapless denim dress

Angel Aquino is the new face of Ensembles —busy, beautiful, and balanced

STORY ON PAGE G4



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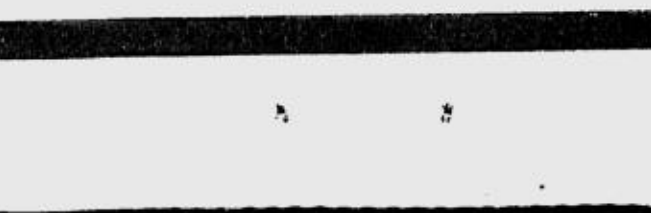

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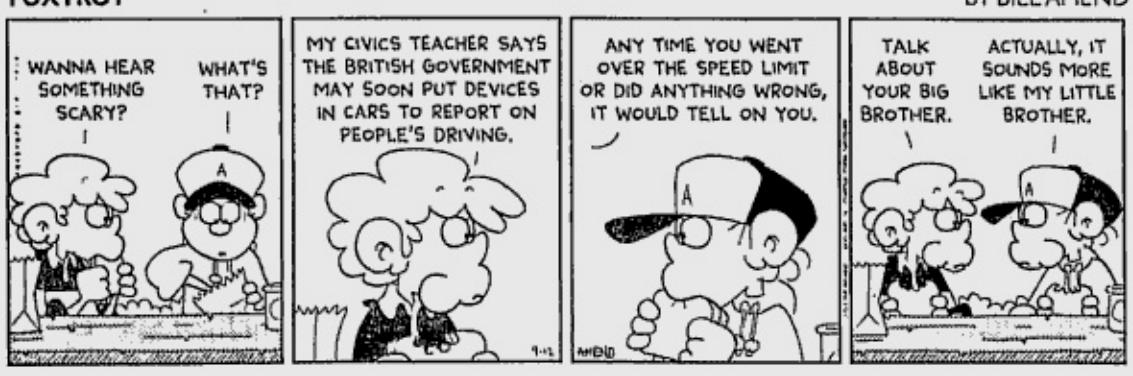
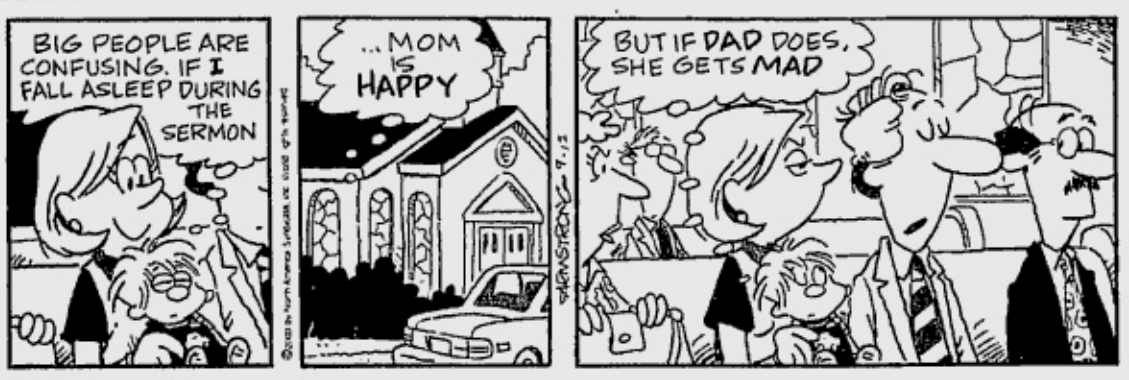


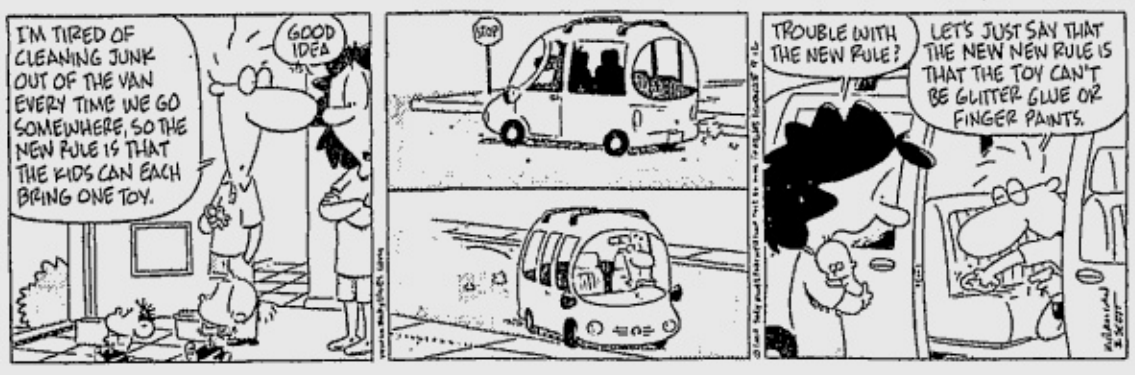
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG



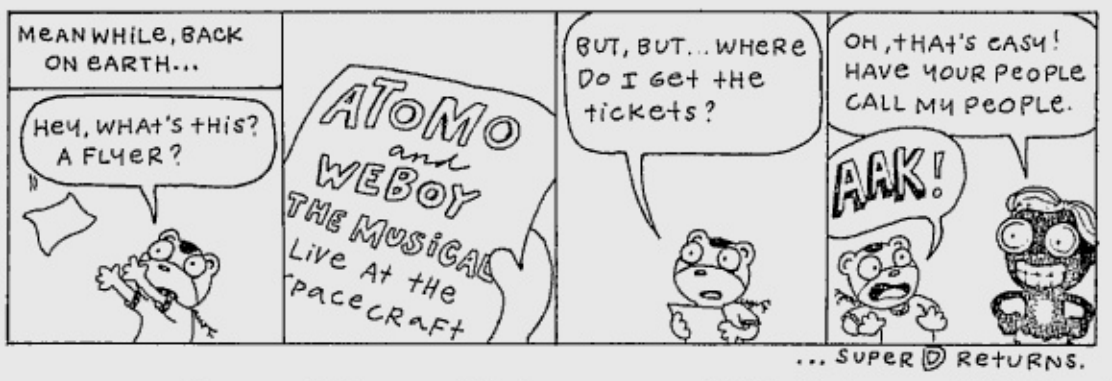
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are active and fearless. You have a strong personality and a magnificent wit. Justice and ethical issues matter a great deal to you. Nevertheless, you are a realist. You know how to balance your physical and mental nature very well. This year could be one of the best years of your life. Dream big!
Birthdate of: Rachel Ward, actress; Jesse Owens, Olympic gold medalist; Alfred A. Knopf, publisher.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Make plans to get more organized this weekend. You have a strong desire now to feel on top of your scene in every way. Act while the urge is with you!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Make plans for a weekend getaway if you can. This is an excellent time for a vacation or for anything that gives you pleasure and enjoyment. Romance can blossom.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today and this weekend focus strongly on family, home and real estate. What can you do to make your home area more attractive? You like to live in cozy, warm surroundings.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Short trips and opportunities to visit siblings will please you now. This is not a time to stay at home. Get out and enjoy the company of others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Stay on top of your money scene. Although you can earn a lot of money now, you are also spending a lot. Keep track of everything. Make friends with ... your bank.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's quite all right to put yourself first now. This is your time of the year to replenish, restore and re-energize yourself. You come first!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Do whatever you can to get a little relaxation, peace and quiet. You can't be all things to all people. Quit trying to please others, and work more at pleasing yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with friends are exciting and upbeat. Try to enjoy group activities today or this weekend. You will love being in the presence of others.

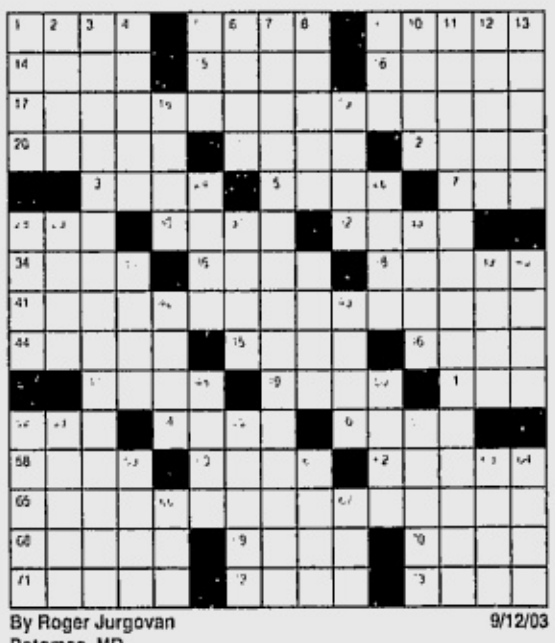
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): No matter what you do, you are unusually high-viz right now. People notice you. Naturally, this means you have to mind your p's and q's.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Look for ways to expand your experience of the world. Enroll in classes to further your career or stimulate your mind. You are hungry to learn right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This can be a particularly passionate time for those of you who are heavily involved in romantic situations. You feel intense, deep emotions right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Smooth over troubled waters with a close friend or partner. Someone else knows that you care. Surely this is enough. Make it clear to this person.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

9/12/03

ACROSS
1 Gorilla researcher Fossey
5 Toward open waters
9 Is able to, to Shakespeare
14 Lowdown
15 Quantity of paper
16 Maui farewell
17 This puzzle's theme
20 Actress Spacek
21 Actor MacLachlan
22 Three-hand card game
23 __ d'oeuvres
25 French eye
27 Anger
28 Before now
30 Neutral hue
32 Horse hue
34 Sulk
36 Ventilates
38 Stirling citizens
41 A screw loose
44 Summer ermine
45 Ardor
46 E.T. vehicles
47 Fingerboard increment
49 Asian nursemaid
51 Summer hrs. in Denver
52 Espied
54 Heath
56 Inter
58 Soho streetcar
60 Boring situations
62 Guardian spirits
65 Stop being a black sheep?
68 Adversary
69 Govern
70 Key or cay
71 Analyze a sentence
72 Jacket type
73 Dick Tracy's love

DOWN
1 Morse clicks
2 Cross letters
3 One misfit
4 Untrue
5 Avant-garde French sculptor
6 Search out
7 Turn green and see if I care!
8 Sufficient
9 Vette or Caddy
10 Woe is me!
11 Nothing to me
12 Harvest wool
13 Refinement
18 Bronte governess
19 Will VIP
24 Peruse
26 Be vanquished
28 Police alerts' letters
29 Navy mascot
31 __-Carlton Hotel
33 Rights grp.
35 Former Russian ruler
37 Tailor's connection
39 Trampled (on)
40 Part of DOS
42 Gossip tidbit
43 Spill the beans
48 Of two minds
50 Enormous
52 Throat prob.
53 Sports showplace
55 Highly unconventional
57 Make alterations
59 __ the word!
61 Town in Normandy
63 Maladies
64 March middle
66 Whiskey grain
67 Farm layer

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	B	B	S			G	R	A	D	I		A	M	E	S
L	O	A	N			L	A	P	E	L		W	A	P	E
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9/12/03

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

GREENWICH joins Cagayan de Oro in the celebration of Kagay-an Festival. Liceo Folkloric Dance Troupe, Greenwich's sponsored group, bagged the second place award in the street dancing competition.

THE POVEDA batch '78 Jubilarians pose for a souvenir picture at an alumnae meeting on their homecoming on Jan. 4, 2004. Photo shows (seated) Marian Orendain, Joyce Isaac Aragon, Malu Tiongson-Ortiz, Annie Roces-Young, Paz Atienza, Malene Cruz-Baron, Carmita Lopez-del Rosario; (standing) Leny Recio-Angeles, Ginny Garcia-Banaag, Miriam Daez-Medalla, Margie Golden-Sazon, Jeannie Pascal-Tan, Princess Bustos-Ongkeko, Marissa Ong, Soccy Rodriguez, Lian Macalinao-de Guzman, Maritez David and Aning Menendez.

Two-day bazaar to benefit Assumption mission schools

GOINGS ON

BAZAAR. THE ASSUMPTION Alumnae Association and Assumption College Basic Education Division Family Council will hold the Red Plaid Sale Christmas bazaar on Sept. 14 and 28 at Hotel InterContinental in Makati. Beneficiaries of this fundraiser are the Assumption mission schools and Faculty Development Project of the Basic Education Division Family Council. Call 8943561/ 8943580.

The 3rd World Bazaar Festival will be held on Dec. 4-14. Proceeds will be given to Bantay Bata 163. Call Worldbex Services International at 5343611 or Full Circle, 8125485/8125489/8125492.

The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines will hold a pre-Christmas grand bazaar on Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at World Trade Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 8173905/ 8170670/0920-9044279.

SEMINAR. The Negpsyong Pinoy workshop continues with its series of free livelihood seminars for the past five years at Quezon Memorial Circle's Commonwealth Pavilion every Saturday, 7:30-10 a.m. Call 9243412/924-3395.

COURSE. A liposuction surgery post-graduate course and live surgical demonstration of modern trends in liposuction and fat transplant will be held on Sept. 20 and 21 at Shangri-La Edsa Plaza and World Citi Medical Center. Call 8192966/4116231/8177178.

PROMO. Robinsons Malls' Premyo on the Go will be held on Sept. 16-Nov. 11. Call 6327672/6337641.

ALL SET. Assumption alumnae Pia Roxas Ojeda, Bingbing Tobias-Sumayao, Patty Henares Gallardo, Tiza de Leon Zamora and Marily de Castro Ledesma prepare for the Red Plaid Sale on Sept 14 and 28.

CALTEX Philippines, Inc. recently launched the Pandesal Livelihood Project of Don Bosco Pugad. Photo shows Makati Shangri-La Hotel chef Christopher Romine; Caltex Corporate Affairs manager Marian Catedral; Social Welfare Undersecretary Luwalhati Pablo with "potpot" boys Dominador and Val.

WORKSHOP. A basic photo workshop will be held on Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5 at Yslas Restaurant inside Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Call 8137420/8435341.

EVENTS. Star Group of Malls at Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa, Alabang and Las Piñas will hold events for grandparents on Sept. 14-27. Call 7244992/8504283.

LAUNCH. Level Up! will hold its Philippine Ragnarok launch on Sept. 13 at Glorietta Activity Center in Makati. Call 8296725.

EXHIBIT. Starbucks holds a photo exhibit of Stephen Foster at Starbucks 6750 until Sept. 30.

BOOKFAIR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. and LCC Legazpi City will hold the 1st Bicol Bookfair on Sept. 24-30 at Royal Court, 4th floor, Express Mart Building, Penaranda St., Legazpi City. Call Beth Jornadal at 9279858 or Leni Dioneda, (052) 4807837.

HOMECOMING. The UST College of Architecture batch 1983 will hold its alumni homecoming on Nov. 22, 6 p.m., at The Forum, 3/F, Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong. Call 9213859/8114432.

NEW BOOK. "Mathematics Reviewer-Text for Civil Service Career, Professional/Sub-Professional and other Examinations" by engineer Sancho Buquing is now out in the market. Call Great Books Trading at 9279858.

DINNER. Miriam College Chi Rho Champions and Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association will hold the Chi Rho Ball gala dinner-dance on Sept. 25, 7 p.m., at NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. Call 4335337.

RAFFLE DRAW. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. raffle draw on Sept. 19 has been moved to Nov. 28. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists raffle draw scheduled on Sept. 23 has been moved to Dec. 5.

FIESTA. Calbayognons in Metro Manila are invited to a social-dinner-dance celebration tomorrow at 6 p.m., at Isla Ball Room, Edsa Plaza, Mandaluyong City, in honor of Our Lady of Nativity, Patron Saint of Calbayog City. Hermanos/hermanas for this year's celebration are Tess Araneta, engineer and Ms Reno Araneta and Mr. and Ms Tom Rosales.

EXHIBIT. Cinema@Home, Avid Sales Corp.'s store-in-store concept, is holding an exhibit at the Cinema Lobby 2 and 3, Home Entertainment Section, Alabang Town Center, until Sept. 28. Included in the exhibit are new models of Samsung and Panasonic projection TVs and Sharp LCD monitors. The exhibit also offers 0-percent interest on all major credit cards on selected models of Sharp, Samsung and Panasonic. Call 8431541 to 48.

Seven days with Super!

This week-long launch will leave you Super! exhilarated

1 Day 1: Super! Fun Machine

On September 14, Sunday, selected readers and special guests of Super! will enjoy screenings of two movies at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas 1 and 2. For trendo-philes, there's Legally Blonde 2, and for the speed freaks, check out 2 Fast 2 Furious. There will be games and giveaways for added fund. Cocktails start at three p.m.

2 Day 2: Super Muscle Builder

Sept. 15, Monday, is the day for the athletic. Teams of advertisers and Super! young athletes will compete in fitness games at Play Underground in Powerplant Mall from 6pm onwards. Flex those muscles and start warming up. Super! will push you to the limit.

3 Day 3: Super! Comedy and Karaoke

Celebrities, readers and advertisers will take I.O. and Comfort Room by storm on Tuesday, Sept. 16, in a night packed with music and quality comedy. From 8:30 p.m. onwards.

4 Day 4: Super! Ghetto Fabulous!

Celebrities, readers, R&B fanatics, breakdancers, homeboys and fly girls will be taking over Absinth in Greenbelt 3 for a night to remember on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 10 p.m.

5 Day 5: Super! X-posed

Super! gets naughty on Thursday night, Sept. 18. in Bed, Maria Orosa, Malate. Games and prizes await the wild and the willing.
For your dose of posh R&B, check out Steve Mills at Azzuro@Sommerset, Aguirre Street. Groove amid a plush scene of fun and fab. From 10p.m. onwards.

6 Day 6: The Launch of Super!

This is one Super! weekend you will never forget. Big Fish and Addict mobile, Wrangler Jose Cuervo bring in international DJ Danny Howells (top 12 in the world) to coincide with the launch of Super! He will be spinning at CATS disco of the New World Renaissance with our very own DJ Tuck Cheah at 10 p.m. After party to be announced. Super! surprises await everyone.

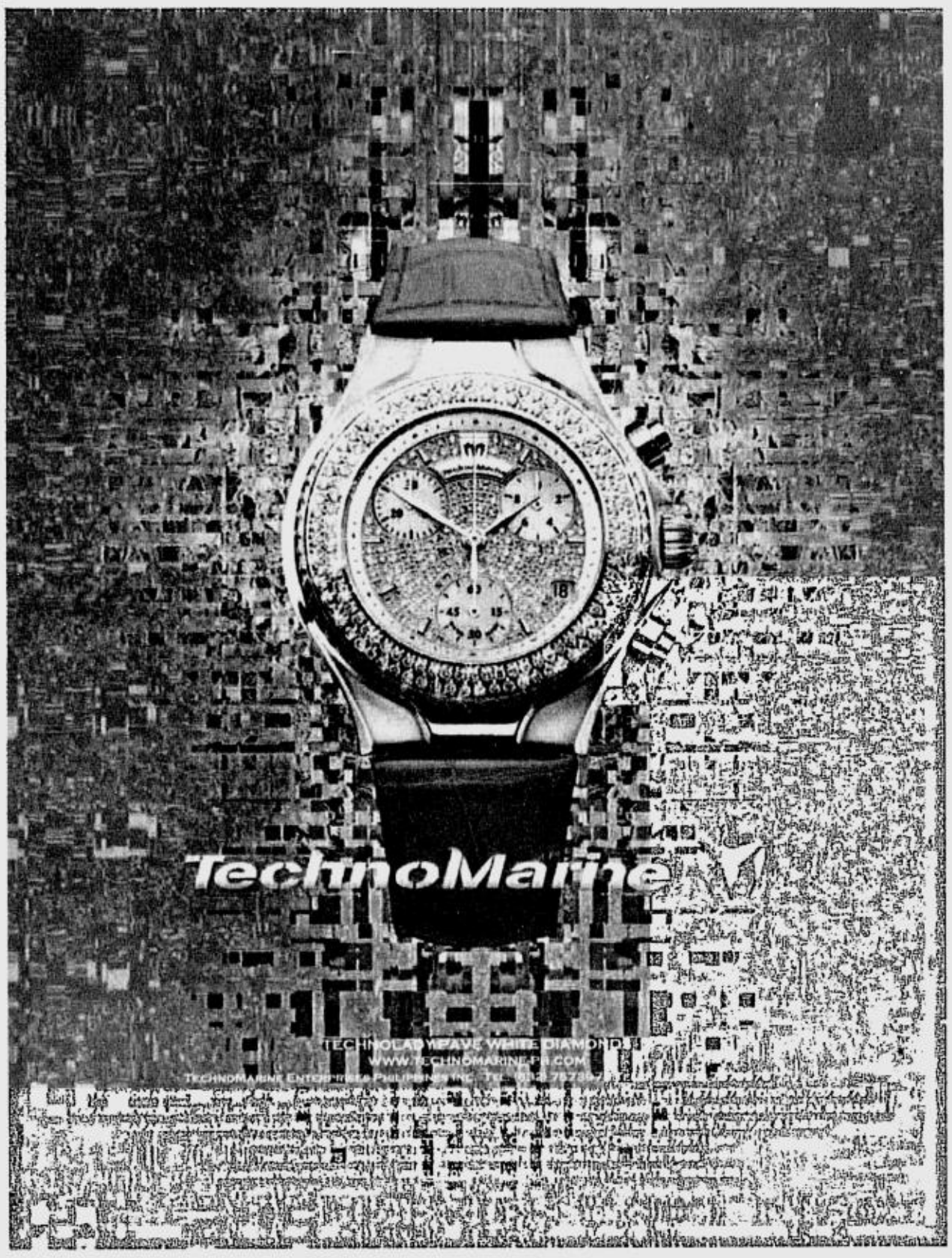
7 Day 7: Super! "Circo Loco" with NBK

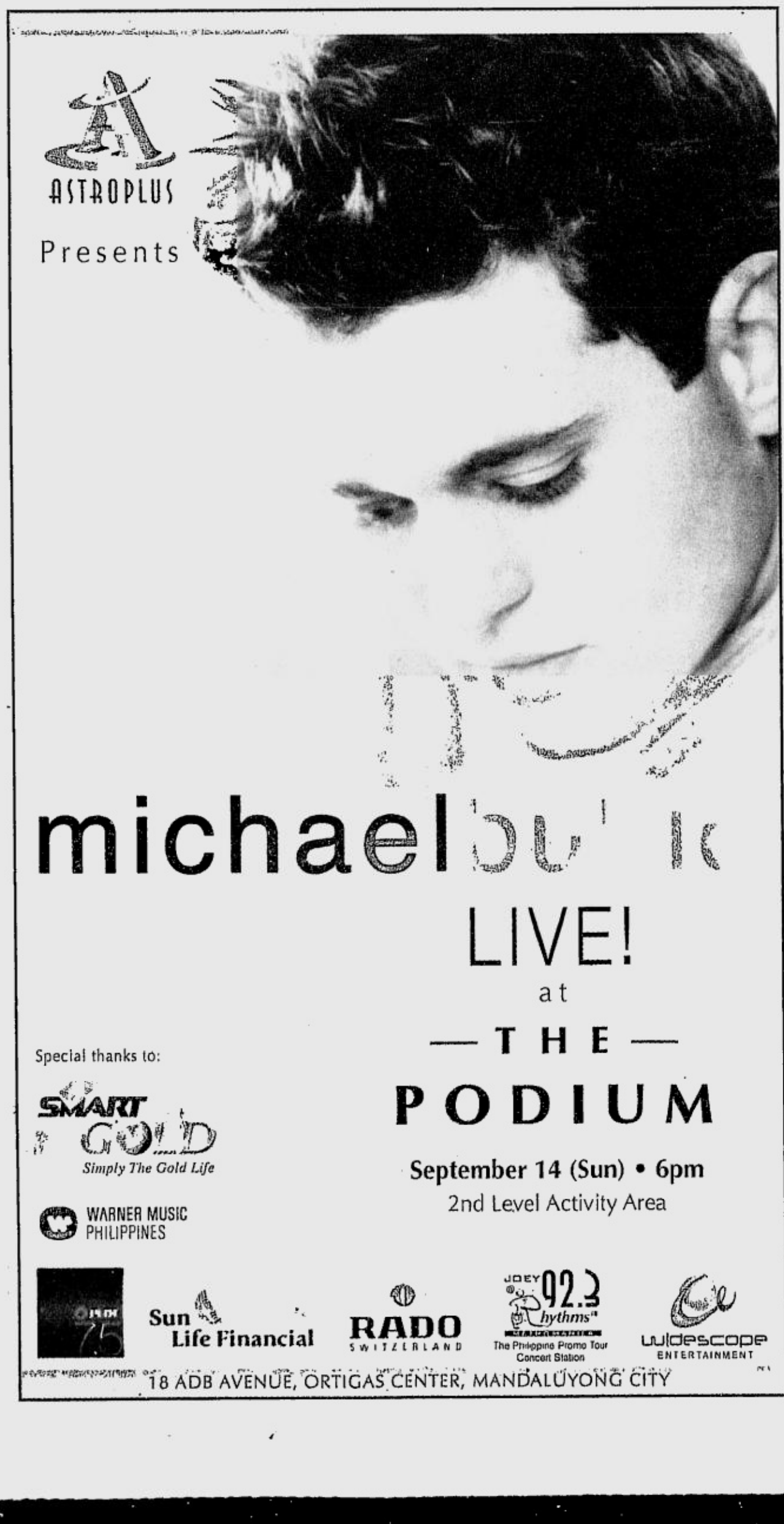
DJ Manolet Dario and percussionist Fritz Barth jam with Super! at Dream Bar 6750 at 10p.m. House music, anthems, Latin beats – a free flowing night of fun vibe and fab people.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Saturday SPECIAL

***All events are on a first come, first served basis.**
Your Super! tips to make sure you make it to the events:

1. Cut out the Super! logo found on the September 13 issue of Saturday Special Super!
2. Be at the gate when it opens on the specified time of the night. (Make sure you're there before the others do.)
3. Register your names to claim your freebies and to be a part of the raffle for the night.
4. Make sure you are identified as a Super! guest so wear your Super! buttons all the time. (Super! buttons will serve as your passport to the other nights.)
5. Have ultimate fun with the other Super! guests all throughout the week. Ain't that Super?!





PLEATED bib-front backless top with slinky pants accented with a thin gold belt. Gold earrings and watch complete the ensemble.

The angel of working fashion

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Ronnie Salvacion

WITH the busy modern lifestyle, a working woman can't spend too much time worrying about her looks. But she can't also afford to look frumpy and ratty. Looking and feeling good, after all, boosts self-confidence, a key to getting ahead of the tight corporate game.

Ensembles boutique was created several years ago to fill the working woman's fashion needs. It has kept to this philosophy to this day. This season and the next, it borrows the face of model and TV personality Angel Aquino to represent its vision: Young and stylish career women with a home and growing children to look after.

Aquino is smart and confident, successful in her career pursuits, takes care of herself without neglecting those who depend on her—especially her two young daughters, aged 10 and 8.

Aquino is a proponent of self-grooming, contrary to what the public may think by virtue of her job. "I don't go to the salon twice a week [like other celebrities]," she says. "It's a good thing I endorse a spa, otherwise I wouldn't go out and spend to get some pampering. I don't like to spend for myself."

Girl-next-door

The single mom (her marriage was recently annulled) lives with her kids and "my *nanay*." Her honesty shines through as she talks about her kin.

Aquino comes from an ordinary Filipino family. They're close-knit, she says. "I speak differently when you see me on TV. *Sa pamilya namin, hindi naman kami nag-i*-English." In fact, sometimes she still feels insecure and gets intimidated by some people she meets.

No matter, nothing intimidates her when it comes to getting her work done. With her TV hosting job on the side, Aquino is also jumpstarting her movie career. After winning an acting plum for "Mumbaki" several years ago, the lovely model will soon be seen in a film opposite acting great Hilda Koronel and Sharon Cuneta.

Aquino confesses she once snubbed the idea of becoming an *artista*. "I also know people thought [hosting a lifestyle show] was superficial," she adds. "But now they're starting to see the substance."

Homebody

"I never planned how my life turned out," says the once-reluctant model. "It was all a series of accidents."

When she was much younger, Aquino was dark, thin and had frizzy hair. It wasn't until college that she became one of "the popular girls... That's after I started growing my hair."

That she had kept the same look since she first caught everyone's attention in a shampoo ad about a decade ago is because "I am comfortable with how I am now and what I have become."

Like the clothes she wears for Ensembles, Aquino's presence in the limelight is enduring. Her quiet beauty never begs for attention, but attention • she nevertheless gets.

While many have come and gone, she has continued to draw the faith of various brands and products. Her long, shiny locks have become a classic, styled differently and accordingly to create various moods and looks.

STRIPED V-neck knee-length dress with leather cummerbund

Her finely chiseled features can be transformed into different images: coy, seductive, wild, serious, or even younger or older than her 30 years.

Repackaging herself anytime soon is out of the question: "I don't know if I'd be able to pull it off," she says.

That's also perhaps why she chooses not to keep too many personal friends in the business. "I'm afraid I can't keep up with their lifestyle... I don't go out if it doesn't involve work." She'd rather stay in bed and read, and be with her kids, or spend time with her boyfriend of four years.

Quite like the Ensembles image she represents, Aquino is focused without being dull, and practical but never lackluster.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

RUCHED polka-dot print spaghetti-strapped blouse and white mini accented with wide belt and multistrand pearls

ENSEMBLES IS LOCATED AT GLORIETTA I, MAKATI, SM MEGAMALL A, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, AND SOON TO OPEN IN ROBINSONS GALLERIA, SM MARILAO, BULACAN, AND EASTWOOD CITY, LIBIS, QC